

# THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
6th and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 71	PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(02)	FEBRUARY-MARCH
	VICE-PRESIDENT:	Alan Ward	857-3760	(03)	2001
	SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Ardella Becker	868-3545	(01)	
		Barbara Chilson	336-6221	(01)	
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		Jeriann Rethman	336-3421	(02)	
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		Francis Davis	866-5288	(03)	
		Naomi Turner	336-2720	(03)	
		Byron Lear	336-3903	(03)	

# Soup Day March 15

TO THE MEMBERS OF NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

**March 15, 2001** is the date set for the Annual SOUP DAY!

As you are aware, the proceeds of this day are used to maintain the museum. We have a No. 1 museum and request your help in keeping it No. 1.

For those of you in the Seneca area, you may be called on to furnish some chili soup, vegetable beef soup, pies or to work. For those of you away from the Seneca area, any monetary contribution would be appreciated!

We are needing a new air conditioner for the office, which may also require some new wiring..

**THANK YOU** for any consideration you may feel you can give.

Joyce Olberding, President  
Naomi Turner, Chairman, Soup Day

I came across this news item in the Courier Democrat on 15 February 1906. It recounts an "open house" and all the gifts that were given the family! Can you imagine anyone listing all their gifts received at a wedding or an open house today, wouldn't that be interesting?

Mr and Mrs Gellhaus, at their home had open house all day. The tables were loaded with all the substantials and luxuries and anyone could eat from 11 a.m. to midnight. Frank Gellhaus gave the boys and girls a free dance in the Stallbaumer building and all reported a good time. Mr and Mrs F. Gellhaus received many valuable presents from their friends and have gone to housekeeping in their new home west of town. The list of presents and the donors as far as the reporter could learn are as follows:

Table linen in plenty, bed spread, Henry Rottenhaus, bed spread, Mr. Pennenberg, 2 coffee pots and coffee mill, Arnold Vondenkamp; coffee mill and can, Mrs C. Krogman; wash tub and board and boiler and irons, Mrs L. Krogman; knives and forks, Barney Holthaus; half doz. silver teaspoons, Mr and Mrs Connet; silver salad spoon, Dr. and Mrs Fitzgerald; silver meat fork, Mr and Mrs Funk; butter knife and sugar shell, Mr and Mrs Casey; water set, Mr and Mrs R. Thompson; center piece and pie knife, Florence Brinker; a clock each from C. Rethmann, Joe Vondenkamp and Haug & Stueve; parlor lamp, Frank Osterhaus; salad dishes from Agnes Boeckenstette, Miss Stoldt and Cora Cox; silver cream ladle, Mr and Mrs Loreu Dennis; sets of dishes from Mr and Mrs Henry Stoldt, Mrs Sextro and Agnes Wessel; fruit set, Mrs Henry Buessing; sugar set, Agnes Wessel; set napkins, Frank Buessing; 2 hogs, Clem Vondenkamp; 3 hogs, Clem Bachmann; 3 hogs and cow, Barney Gellhaus; 1½ doz. chickens, Mrs Bachmann; doz. chickens each from Mrs Barney Gellhaus, Mrs C. Krogman and Mrs H. Vondenkamp. There were a lot more presents but the reporter failed to get the names of those who sent them.

Courier Democrat, 8 February 1906

Wednesday at 9 o'clock a.m., Frank Gelhaus was married to Josephine Boeckman by Father Edwin. The church was filled with friends and acquaintances. The music was furnished by children of the Parochial School.

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Reprint from Courier Democrat 8 February 1906

NO CIVIL LIABILITY FOR JOINTS

A case was decided in the common-pleas court of Kansas City, Kansas last Monday that is of some interest to Seneca people, through the circumstances. A woman of that city brought suit for \$20,000 against a joint keeper for causing her husband to become a drunkard and a suicide and made the City, the mayor and chief of police parties defendant, on the grounds that the joints were licensed by a system of fines. It will be observed that the allegations on which this woman sought to recover were much the same as in case of Mrs. Louisa Carman against the city of Seneca and its officials, in which she asks \$10,000 damages for the death of her husband in the shooting scrape in Payne & Larimer's saloon. Judge Holt of the Kansas City court dismissed the case against the city and city officials, on the ground that there was not sufficient cause of action to hold them liable for damages.

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In 1882, part of a mastodon was plowed out on B. F. Morgan's farm, where Mr Harris once lived on Harris Creek.

## Traveled By Handcart Across The Prairies Over 80 Years Ago

Courier-Tribune, 9 May 1938

There is a picture of Mrs. Elizabeth Dorman, with the caption: Mrs. Elizabeth Dorman and her brother, B.Y. Dodd, Centralia, traveled across the plains and mountains 82 years ago in a handcart train of the Mormons. Winter struck the caravan and their father was frozen. Mrs. Dorman, standing in front of the vines of her home, holds an early-type clarinet which belonged to her father and was carried on the trail.

Nemaha county has a few pioneers still living who traveled across the prairie in the old-fashioned covered wagons, but more unusual than these are two pioneers at Centralia, who as children more than 80 years ago, crossed the plains by one of the strangest modes of the early day, by handcart in a handcart train of the Mormons. It is believed there are not more than three or four other persons now living in the entire United States who were members of the handcart caravans. The Centralians are Mrs. Elizabeth Dorman, widow of the late James P. Dorman and mother of a family including prominent teachers, and B.Y. Dodd, who thought one time to have his name changed because the family is no longer connected with the Latter Day Saints, but remains Brigham Young Dodd, named after the prophet.

Mrs. Dorman was between two and three years of age when her people joined a Mormon caravan in 1856 on its way to settle in the Salt Lake area; B.Y. Dodd was a babe of six months.

Almost unbelievable hardships were suffered by some of the handcart caravans. The train which included the members of the Dodd family was an ill-fated group, making too late a start across the plains and being caught by winter. Thomas Dodd, the father of Mrs. Dorman and B.Y. Dodd, then a man of some 40 years of age, who had worked in milling in England, was one of the men who froze to death on the bitter trail. It is believed this was when the train was near the present location of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, though the grave has never been positively located. Mr. Dodd's coat was passed on that another man might use it. Saved from it, however is a keepsake Mrs. Dorman treasures, a button, of metal, thought hand-fashioned. Though precious little could be taken in the handcarts, the father's possessions also included a wood musical instrument of clarinet type, brought from England, now perhaps 160 to 200 years old, also treasured by his daughter.

An encyclopedia, telling of the development of Mormonism, says it was in 1846 that the following quit Nauvoo, or "Beautiful" Illinois, resolved to seek a haven west of the Rockies where they would not be subject to persecution. After the Mormon settlement was established in what is now Utah in 1847, there was a colonization period. The faith of the Latter Day Saints spread for a time into Europe.

Two years ago, Walter Hart Blumenthal, writing for the New York Sun, reviewed the history of the Mormon handcart expeditions. He said at that time Andrew Jenson, church historian, had issued a call for survivors of the 2,969 persons who traveled in the handcart trains. But three had reported. Like Mrs. Dorman and B.Y. Dodd, they had been children at the time. To aid in the gathering of historical information, the names of Mrs. Dorman and Mr. Dodd were reported and added to the list.

There were 10 handcart companies in all between 1856 and 1860. Five of these groups made the trip the first year. The fourth and fifth were those which started too late and were caught by deep mountain snows, Blumenthal wrote in the New York Sun. Two hundred and seventeen persons of 996 died on the way. It is believed the Dodd family were members of the

fifth company.

"The pushcarts were made of unseasoned hickory and oak, each having a shallow box to hold bedding and cooking utensils." Blumenthal wrote, "Shafts and handlebar made it possible to push or pull the vehicle. They were suggested by Brigham Young, who was a carpenter, as a cheaper means of getting to the Mormon Zion. During the first year the carts were hastily built, with wooden axles and no iron tires on the shaky wheels. After weeks of hard going some fell apart, and if the company included no wheelwright they were left by the wayside. The axles of the carts were greased with bacon fat that was sorely needed for food.

"Most of the 1,800 emigrants who crossed the plains in 1856 in the five handcart companies of that year came from Liverpool, assembling there from England, Wales and Denmark as converts of the Mormon missionaries. From Atlantic ports of arrival they were taken by rail to Iowa City at a contract rate of \$10 a person. When the emigration fund of the Mormon church became depleted, handcart transportation from the Missouri westward was the only way left. These handcart companies made better time than the covered wagon caravans. But they had to travel light." Blumenthal tells then of how possessions brought from England had to be discarded, a grievous sight. "The march across Iowa was the easiest part of the journey. The Mormons set up winter quarters across the Missouri, at Florence, Nebraska, near the site of the present city of Omaha and the real hardships began there."

"The first two companies had no major difficulties. They traveled double the average daily mile--was lost with stray cattle, stampede or exhaustion of the livestock.

The third company also arrived safely, the writer records, having walked on average of over 10 miles a day.

It was the fourth and fifth companies which met with disaster. Crossing Iowa, they reached Florence, Nebraska, in good condition. Numbering over a thousand persons, there had been fatal delay in making enough handcarts. Ten wagons drawn by three yoke of oxen each hauled the tents and heavier provisions. These handcarters, English, Scotch and Scandinavian, had sailed from Liverpool in May and reached Iowa City late in June. After covering the 300 miles to Florence in July, they decided to push on despite the lateness of the season, not August, and against the advice of Capt. James G. Willie, head of the fourth company, who had crossed the Rockies and knew how winter came in the mountains.

"Heavy sacks of flour were put into the handcarts in addition to the other load. Breakdowns were frequent. One night buffalo stampeded the oxen, 30 of which were lost. When the mountain range was reached it was clad to the base in snow. But they could only press on. With the onset of cold weather the buffalo herds disappeared south. Rations grew short. Many of the old and infirm perished. That year had one of the bitterest recorded winters. Of the 420 in Captain Willie's group, 67 died before the party reached its destination on the ninth of November.

"Of the fifth company under Capt. Edward Martin, 150 succumbed. The shoes and boot tops of the dead were eaten and the leather dust shields of the cart hubs gnawed. It was December 1 when the 426 survivors of Captain Martin's depleted company reached Salt Lake Valley."

It's a long time from that day to this.

B.Y. Dodd was not at his home when a reporter stopped recently.

Neither he nor Mrs. Dorman, of course, remember anything of that long trail over the plains and mountains. As children, they were privileged to ride in the carts, while older persons walked.

There were three older brothers, all now deceased. The mother after living at Salt Lake City with her children for a year and a half, came back to Atchison with them in the fall of 1858 and except for a year and a half Mrs. Dorman has lived in Kansas ever since. She married James P. Dorman, who was a soldier in the Civil war. The family came to this part of the state in '83 over 50 years ago. Mr. Dorman followed the trade of a blacksmith. He passed away some 20 years ago, near the time the family moved to the home just at the northeast corner of Centralia.

The children are James at Goff, and six sisters. All of these six have taught or are teaching. Miss Blanche teaches at Centralia; Mrs. Ida Moore at Goff; Mrs. Grace Tinker at Kansas City, Kansas; Miss Lillie and Miss Annie, Centralia and Mrs. Dora Moore, Roseburg, Oregon complete the family

Mrs. Dorman's mother remained a Latter Day Saint throughout her life, but did not insist on her children following that faith. Mrs. Dorman and her family are Congregationalists.

All the Centralia community seems to love Mrs. Dorman. She is indeed a fine elderly lady. Now nearing 85, she reads with glasses and in fact does much fancy work and quilting the same way. She says she must keep working to keep her hands nimble.

Both sides of the Dorman house are rich in historical background. Mrs. Dorman had an ancestor killed in the battle of Waterloo; the Dorman family, in this country from Colonial days, has been traced back to knighthood under Scottish kings.

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#### NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Susan Henry, Topeka, KS  
Laurie Niehues, Goff, KS

#### IN MEMORIAM

Alta Graham  
Theo McDonough

#### NEW HISTORICAL-GENEALOGY MEMBERS

Judy Lowe, Summit Point, WV  
Bill Block, Leawood, KS  
Roger Huertter, Leawood, KS  
Thomas L. Boeding, Kansas City, KS  
Mary Ford, Marion, KS  
C. Richard Bryson, San Jose, CA

Sabetha Congregational church

put in a pipe organ, 1895

#### 2001 EVENTS & MEETINGS:

MARCH 15, SOUP LUNCH  
MAY 8, Board meeting  
JUNE 3, Dinner meeting  
JUNE 5, Reorganizational board meeting

Catholic church at Kelly

dedicated August 27, 1902

1875

John Ingram of Centralia, came over to Seneca last Saturday and instituted a new Masonic lodge here. There are some thirty-five of the old lodge interested in the new organization, which promises to be healthier and better one than the old.

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NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

01

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5.00 per person  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person  
 Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10.00

Renewal  
 New

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 2001 / HG  
Ardella Becker  
Corning, KS 66417

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971

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The Board of Nemaha County Historical Society met at the museum on May 8, 2001. Attending were Joyce Olberding, Naomi Turner and Pauline Esslinger,

Since there was no quorum, several projects were discussed. Wednesday, the 9th, the teachers are touring the museum. We will offer cookies and a drink following the tour.\* May 17th, several members will take an assortment of old items and display them at Country View Estates during Nursing Home Week so the residents can view them and reminiscence about the "old days".

The Nemaha County treasurer's office has donated several boxes of old items, that are no longer used in the office to the museum.

Several other projects were discussed. The museum will be open May 26, from 1pm until 4pm, while the Seneca Public High Alumni have their registration. Everyone is welcome to tour the museum during this time, or sit and visit with old friends from your high school days.

The museum will be open for the summer the first week of June.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, COME SEE US!!!!

\*It was such a nice day the teachers decided to stay at the lake and fish, so they did not come for their tour.

## GRAND OLD "LADY" NEW TO APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME

She is nearly 80 years old, measures six-foot-two and weighs more than 1,000 pounds. She used to live downtown in a small wooden closet inside Sabetha City Hall until she was injured in the 1998 tornado that destroyed the building. She suffered a broken leg, skin lacerations and internal injuries when the roof caved in on her. For two years, she lived in a damp unheated garage. Finally last spring the City of Sabetha made the decision to admit her to the Apostolic Christian Home for a restorative therapy program.

The new resident is not a person, of course, but is the Lester grand piano that used to be in the auditorium of the old City Hall. Originally built in Lester, PA, in the early 1920's, the piano was ordered in October 1950 through funds raised by the Sabetha Federated Club. Minnie Pearl Wikle was president of the Federated Clubs of Sabetha at the time, and she organized this project in the winter of 1949. Through pledges, donations and proceeds from rummage sales, the clubs raised the money to purchase the piano. It was delivered in November 1950 by a firm in Atchison. The piano cost \$695, a hundred dollars cheaper than the original asking price. The firm lowered the cost in view of the community aspect.

"The clubs worked to raise money for the piano, so, among other things, Pauline Fisher would have the piano for recitals," recalled Pauline's sister, Mildred Gilbert. Pauline taught piano for 74 years, first in Kansas City and then in Sabetha. She passed away in 1992. "She had such crowds and so many pupils that she needed a larger place for the recitals," continued Mildred. "Pauline would be happy to know that the piano is going to be repaired."

Among Pauline's many former students is Joelline Stoller, daughter of Minnie Pearl Wikle. Joelline currently teaches piano in Sabetha and kindly supplied the information on the piano from the October 11, 1950 issue of The Sabetha Herald. "I was glad to hear it's going to be rebuilt," Stoller said. "I remember that piano very well."

On July 13, 1998, the walls of the City Hall building collapsed during the tornado that hit Sabetha. A large section of roof landed on the wooden box that housed the piano when it was not in use. The impact snapped most of the strings, split the wooden lid and broke off the left leg. Water has also caused cosmetic and structural damage to the piano. Due to the efforts of the 1950 FFA boys, the wooden box they constructed for the piano absorbed much of the force of the falling roof, and provided some protection from major water damage. City workers retrieved the piano from the rubble and stored it in a city building where it remained until May 2, 2000.

In 1950, the Federated Clubs made one restriction on the use of the piano, and that was that it could not be

removed from the City Hall. "The restriction was honored since the tornado actually removed the City Hall from the piano," laughs John Lehman, executive director of the Apostolic Christian Home. "We're glad to help preserve a part of Sabetha history, but we're sorry it took a tornado to get this 'baby' on the move! We are very grateful to the City of Sabetha for their generosity in donating this instrument."

The refurbished piano will be available to anyone who wants to play it. Area pianists and piano teachers will be encouraged to use the piano for recitals. Pianists and students will have the opportunity to play a good piano in front of a live audience and our residents will benefit from the music they provide. This will promote a lot of positive interaction between residents of our Home and the community.

Work has already begun on the damaged case, and the broken leg is repaired. Much repair work remains to be done: The case is being refinished, cracks in the soundboard repaired, the felts, strings, tuning pins and pin block will be replaced and the action will be reconditioned. The piano will be completed by December 9, 2000, and plans are already underway for a piano dedication celebration in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the Apostolic Christian Home for that afternoon. In order to best showcase this newly refurbished piece of Sabetha history, local piano students will perform on the restored piano throughout the evening.

"We have received about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the money we need in donations already," says Shane Spangler, administrative assistant at the Apostolic Christian Home. "We are very excited about this project, and we greatly appreciate the monetary contributions we have received."

The Apostolic Christian Home would be grateful for cash contributions to complete this project. Contributions may be made to the Apostolic Christian Home Piano Fund.



*The grand piano after being rescued from the damaged Sabetha City Hall.*

THE HISTORY OF OLD BIBLE  
And of Early Days

A Letter by Mrs Bert Hay Results in Securing Much Baileyville Data.

Mrs. Bert Hay, Holton, some time ago wrote The Courier Tribune of a trip through the Baileyville community, her old home, and some of her memories. She writes that printing of the letter she has received numerous letters and had many conversations about the days gone by at Baileyville. Loren Thompson, Long Beach, has written an especially interesting letter. It includes a history of the old Bible which Mrs. Hay mentioned as still remaining in the Baileyville Baptist church. "It would be a real tragedy of early history if all you old-timers didn't know about it," Mr. Thompson wrote Mrs. Hay.

Before the Baptist church was built at Baileyville, the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians had their separate meetings in the school house. Each group had its own Bible. There was enough friction--or at least rivalry--that each group was particular not to leave a Bible for use in services of the next denomination.

Then came the night that Rev. W.A. Biggart, regular Baptist pastor, could not come. He sent a layman from Oneida to conduct the meeting, but no Bible. The layman quoted Scripture and managed to get along, but Loren Thompson, then a boy, was humiliated by lack of the book and angered, too. Next day he rode a mule into Baileyville to solicit funds for a Bible.

"He talked first with Mr. Will Crow, the postmaster-merchant and what not, also a Bob Ingersoll man," writes Mrs. Hay. (Ingersoll was an agnostic.) "Loren had given the first 25¢, probably a whole day's wages. Mr. Crow held it was fitting that no one could give who belonged to any church, and the first denomination which erected a building would receive the Bible. The Baptists, with nine charter members, were first, due largely to the great desire of Mr. Runft, and so the Bible still lies on the Baptist pulpit, having gone through the tornado without a single torn leaf."

"I would like to know is the Bible was bought of Mr. Sigler, who sold Bibles there at an early date. My mother has one she bought from him.

"Mr. Thompson very kindly asks, as long as no family has any private interest and probably at this day attaches no sentiment peculiar to this particular Bible, that whenever the church is disbanded it be placed in the Seneca library. I have no voice in the matter as my membership is no longer there but can only say with all my heart I hope the wish of one who made possible the gift is fulfilled. So far as I know, Dan Joyce is the only other living contributor."

The Thompsons went to Baileyville in 1884. Loren Thompson wrote Mrs. Hay after her letter about the old scenes was published, "As I read, I followed you every step of the way over that road by the Timberlake place, near the Bailey bridge. The mention of the trees brought to mind the days of long ago when my brother, Ed Thompson, a lad of 19, and Oliver McFarlin, also about that age, who came from New Sharon, Iowa set out

those historic pines. We always felt those trees were a memorial to the Thompson family and never missed driving along that road when possible."

"My memory does not go back to the planting of the trees," Mrs. Hay writes, "but no doubt I watched then as did all the neighbors for I have heard it was considered folly to plant a 'shelter belt' in those days. But those industrious lads never dreamed of the protection, inspiration and solace the work of their hands would perfect in years to come--defying blizzards, the crushing snow, the drought and floods.

"Oliver McFarlin married Lizzie Campbell after working at Baileys two years, and moved to Princeton, Kansas, where he died in May 1937.

"The other lad never lived to see the first growth of the tiny branches. I am indebted to Howard Bigelow who went to the cemetery and gave me the following dates on the tombstones: Ed Thompson, 1865-1884. Loren Thompson, says Ed, was the third person buried there. Carrie Runft, 1865-1884, is believed the second and my mother says a Glendening child was the first. A stone also shows Alice Glenna Sigler died October 31, 1884, age 15 years, eight months, 14 days. I recall that she died of typhoid fever contracted while caring for the Alva Curtis family, who lived just south of where the town hall was built many years later. How strange that so many of the first graves are those of such young people.

"The Glendenings lived on the Joe Witmer farm. The most horrible fright I ever had was when one of their lambs strayed to our house and came close where I was playing, and I thought it must be a lion and would tear me to pieces.

"A Harper Glendening lives at Long Beach and has large farming interests in Canada. Mr. Thompson says that Mat Donnelly and Will Scott will remember them well."

(reprint: Courier Tribune, 10 October 1936)

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MEMORIALS:

PHILIP FELDKAMP

Phyllis Feldkamp Anderson

RICHARD GEHRING

Harry Burger

Courier: 8 June 1964  
1914 item:

The old cobblestone side walks on Main Street were being removed.

History recorded that they were laid by William Heilfeldt, who afterwards became U. S. Senator from Idaho

Reprint from the Courier Democrat, 8 February 1906

WILL HAVE BRICK PLANT

Stockholders Held Preliminary Meeting Monday Evening

The subscribers to stock in the proposed brick making plant at Seneca held their first meeting last Monday evening, to discuss plans in a general way and talk over ways and means. Practically all of the stock has been subscribed, and assurances received of enough capital to start the business in a modest way. If it proves as profitable and successful as its promoters hope, there will be no difficulty in securing ample capital for one of the largest plants in the state. An agreement has been reached with Ira B. Dye, the proprietor of the brick plant at Peru, Nebraska, and his plant will be purchased out-right. Mr. Dye taking stock in the Seneca plant and coming here with it as superintendent of the Seneca plant. With him will probably come not less than three of his experienced work-men with their families. It is expected that the plant from Peru can be taken down, moved and put in place here, ready to begin operation by the first of April, ready to turn out brick early in May, for the building operations of the coming season.

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The Board of the Nemaha Historical Society met for a dutch luncheon at Valentino's in Seneca on April 10, 2001 at noon. Attending were, Naomi Turner, Joyce Olberding, Ardela Becker, Gene Visser and Ray Hunninghake. Also present were Lillian Engelken, Mary Steinlage and Pauline Esslinger.

Discussed was the annual Open House scheduled for October 7, 2001. The City of Seneca is planning on having a Flea Market on the 6th and 7th, and ideas were discussed as what the Museum would do on Saturday the 6th.

Sunday the 7th, the Historical Society will celebrate their 25th anniversary of the Society and everyone agreed, it should be a special day. Plans will be announced at a later date as to what is planned that weekend. With events planned both days, extra help will be needed, let Joyce know!

The Pioneer Press will be printed after the next board meeting, to be held May 8, 2001, and the annual dinner meeting will be June 3, 2001. If you have something you want printed in the bulletin, please contact Pauline Esslinger, Bern, KS 66408. Ideas are welcome!

The museum will be open May 26, 2001 for the Seneca Public High School Alumni registration from 1pm to 4pm. The public is welcome to come and tour the museum that day as well. Admission is a \$1.00 a person.

Thursday, May 10, teachers will tour several sites in the area while their students are spending the day at the Centralia lake for ecology day. They will be at the museum in the afternoon. If you can help with the tour, contact Joyce Olberding.

A memorial was given by Harry Burger for his nephew, Richard L. Gehring.

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NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

01

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5.00 per person  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person  
 Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10.00

Renewal  
 New

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha Seneca KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

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Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538

Membership expires: June 2001/H  
Mary Steinlage  
Route 3, Box 12  
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

6-6-01

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VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmitz	336-6596	(04)
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(03)
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	Byron Lear	336-3903	(03)
	Alan Ward	857-3760	(03)
	Pam Davis	336-3928	(03)
	Theresa Hutfles	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04)
	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819	(04)

25TH

ANNIVERSARY  
1976-2001

# HERITAGE DAY

Saturday & Sunday October 6-7, 2001

12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM

6th & NE MAHA SENIKA KS

## FREE ADMISSION

- ◆ Free Museum Tours
- ◆ Genealogy Booth
- ◆ Blacksmith
- ◆ Soap Making
- ◆ Oregon Trail Maps and Display
- ◆ Rope Making
- ◆ Many Items on Display
- ◆ Pot of Gold
- ◆ Lunch Stand
- ◆ Homemade Ice Cream
- ◆ Country Store
- ◆ 2/5 Model Traction Steam Engine
- ◆ Buggy Rides
- ◆ Old Tractors on Display
- ◆ Talent Show
- ◆ Tatting by Elizabeth Doll
- ◆ Selling Chances on Household Wares
- ◆ Buessing's Barrel Train Rides

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

785-857-3760 or 785-336-3160

BOARD MEETING 5 June 2001

The Nemaha County Historical board meeting was called to order by Joyce Olberding, president, at the museum on June 5, 2001. The following were present: Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser, Theresa Hutfles, Carol Kohake, Richard Schmitz, and Naomi Turner.

Officers were elected and committee members were assigned for the coming year. Theresa Hutfles moved to accept nominations and board meeting dates for the coming year, seconded by Naomi Turner, unanimous approval.

Discussed the lunch stand at the Kirk sale on July 7th. Volunteers will be notified to see if they can help.

Open House on October 6 & 7 was discussed for the benefit of the new board members.

Meeting was adjourned.

---

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Twenty five years ago on March 8, 1976, a group of 18 Nemaha Countians under the leadership of Amelia Sudbeck had applied for and received its letter of incorporation as the NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

During that year and through February 1977, one hundred thirty-four more had joined the group. They started collecting history and artifacts in two rooms above Seneca City Hall. In 1978, they bought the former county jail and sheriff's residence to use as a museum. Soon both buildings were filled.

In 1995, through the generosity of Harry Burger, the Burger Annex was built. It, too, is rapidly filling up. In 1994, the Nemaha County Genealogical Society and the Bancroft Preservation Association were affiliated with the society.

Of the first 134 members the following are still members:

David Lauer, Sally Lauer, Angela Haug, Odelia Brokamp, Gladys Eaton, Grace Dunn, August Olberding, Reva Olberding, Robert Ackerman, Alma Ackerman, Dr. A.E. Vitt, Alfred Buser, Mary Enneking, Lola Droege, Les Droege, Mary Ann York, Velven York, Eldon Olberding, Joyce Olberding, Richard Gafford, Nancy Gafford, Karen (Gafford) Matcheck, Robert Strathman, Grace Strathman, and Mary Sourk.

They are commended for their services over the years and their continued interest in the work of the society.

THEY DESERVE A BIG THANK YOU!!!

The Nemaha County Historical Society met August 7, 2001 at the museum in Seneca. Attending were; Byron Lear, Theresa Hutfles, Richard Schmitz, Gene Visser, Francis Davis, Carol Kohake, Ray Hunninghake, Alan Ward, Bill Rettele, Joyce Olberding, Naomi Turner, Lillian Engelken, and Dorothy Pearl Murphy.

Joyce Olberding, president, called the meeting to order. Richard Schmitz will donate a 240V air conditioner for the office. Open House was discussed, as it will be for 2 days this year, in accordance with Seneca's 2 day Flea Market week-end.

The museum will be open 11:00am to 4:00pm both days with a light lunch available on Saturday, the 6th, and ice cream served on Sunday, the 7th.

We will freeze the ice cream at 6:30pm on September 27th, with Carol Kohake, Ray Hunninghake, Alan Ward, Lillian Engelken, Gene Visser and Joyce Olberding with the freezers. The custard makers will be Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Naomi Turner, Lillian Engelken, Byron Lear, Gene Visser, Joyce Olberding, Alan Ward, Richard Schmitz, Theresa Hutfles and Carol Kohake,

The museum will have the lunch stand at the Anderson sale in Oneida, September 15th. Alan Ward and Bill Rettele will haul our equipment and supplies to the site, and Alan will help on Saturday.

DAVIS  
Alan Ward made a motion to accept the resignation of Francis Davis from the board. Carol Kohake seconded, motion carried.

Ray Hunninghake made a motion to accept Pam Davis, daughter-in-law, of Francis as a new board member. Richard Schmitz 2nd, motion was approved.

Gene Visser made a motion to adjourn meeting, Alan Ward 2nd, motion approved, Meeting adjourned.

The Society will have a dinner meeting September 9th, at Valentino's, in Seneca, at 6:30pm, dinner will be from the menu, EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

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LAST CALL  
FOR  
DUES 2001 -  
2002

Located in one of the finest sections of Kansas, amidst the rolling hills and productive valleys, lies the peaceful village of Oneida. The people of this town are wide awake and are thoroughly up-to-date, and every business in the town is represented on our subscription list. Oneida doesn't date her beginning back to ancient history but she is one of the old towns of the county. The United States granted a patent of the land where Oneida is now to P. M. Falts, October 1st, 1860 and in 1873 the 29th day of August, Samuel Lappin deeded the same land to Cyrus Shinn, who came from Iroquois county, Illinois. Mr. Shinn platted the town August 7, 1878, and on the ninth day of the same month, the plat was put on record. Oneida was named after Oneida, Illinois and Gilman township takes its name from Gilman, Illinois. Cyrus Shinn, the 'daddy' of the town erected the first building a land office-which is still standing between Murdock's brick and Grant Ford's barber shop. The town never was troubled with a 'boom' but made a steady and rapid growth until the Rock Island was built through the north part of the county. While Oneida did not lose any of her population, yet the town of Bern cut off considerable trade from the north which all came to Oneida before the building of the railroad. The town was incorporated as a city on the 3rd day of June 1884. The following is a list of the city 'dads.' Mayor Wm. Magee; marshal and street commissioner, J. F. McCarty; city clerk, M. C. Arnold; city treasurer, H. R. Melendy; councilmen, W. T. Moody, C. C. Wilson, John Hagan, H. R. Melendy and J. L. Smothers; police judge, James Slater.

Other businesses listed were;

Dr's Murdock and Murdock, Sam and Sam Jr.

T. F. Landers was postmaster.

S. G. B. Ward was proprietor of the Beehive Candy Kitchen and Home Restaurant.

H. R. Melendy was manager of Gregg Brothers elevator.

D. F. Miles was proprietor of Lindell Hotel.

M. Slater ran a harness shop and factory.

C. N. Benson had a general merchandise store.

Wikoff Brothers, F. E. and H. L. were cashier and assistant cashier of Oneida State Bank.

Wm. Magee was Mayor of Oneida and had a grocery, queensware, flour and feed

business.

Grant Ford was the barber.

Thos. Moore was the shoemaker.

P. L. Jones had a shop (unnamed).

T. J. Collins had a meat shop.

M. D. Pierce was a welder and horseshoer.

D. S. Gilmore had a hardware store.

Sherrard and Son, J. C. and J. E., had a grain business and also handled coal.

M. C. Arnold was the St. Joe and G. I. Railroad depot agent.

J. C. McCarty, chief of police, had a poultry and produce business.

John Callahan had a business, (unnamed).

L. E. Marshall was a laborer on the Grand Island railroad,.

A. W. Turck had the livery business.

---

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Historical Society-ANNUAL

Theresa Hutfles, Corning, KS

Richard Schmitz, Baileyville, KS

Heith Hailey, Goff, KS

Historical/Genealogical-ANNUAL

Barbara Borowy, Corrales, NM

Alfred Field, Washington, DC

Emily Shaver, Rollo, MO

**DECEASED:**

G. Everett Murphy, Seneca, KS

Ardella Becker, Corning, KS

Mary Chamberlain, Seneca, KS

**MEMORIALS:**

Ardella Becker

by John Becker Family

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The August 1 membership total is 115, of which, 48 are life members in the Historical Society and 57 also belong to the Genealogy Society.

---

1914

The old cobblestone sidewalks on Main Street were being removed.

History recorded that they were laid by William Heilfeldt, who afterward became U.S. senator from Idaho.

## Tells it like it was

One of the most interesting accounts to turn up for a long time, concerning the pioneer days in this area, was written by Miss Helen Hill, Axtell, retired school teacher, and printed in a recent issue of the Marysville Advocate. The account centers around Ash Point, now vanished pioneer village on the west line of Nemaha county. Miss Hill's article follows:

Years ago the Oregon and California road was the trail that went a winding through Nemaha and Marshall county.

On this trail, northeast of Axtell, on land now owned by Wm. Wassenberg, was the little town of Ash Point. Ash Point was located on high ground where there was a large grove of ash trees--hence the name Ash Point.

The town was established by my grandfather, John O'Loughlin, who came to Kansas from Iowa in 1854. He was a widower with nine grown children; only one, James, came to Kansas with him.

From A.T. Andreas History of Kansas published in 1883 I quote: "John O'Loughlin was the main man of the town, which was made a postoffice, he being the official incumbent. He also established a general store and a hotel. These buildings with several dwellings, constituted the town. Other early residents in Ash Point were the Josiah Blaneett and John Short families."

My grandfather was postmaster there until his death in 1871.

Over the door of the store was the sign, Uncle John's Store. I saw a picture of the store with the sign in an old history book that Otto Wulschleger showed me. To travelers and neighbors, my grandparents, who were married in 1862, were known as Uncle John and Aunt Mary. The hotel at Ash Point was on the south side of the trail and there were two large sleeping rooms--one for the men and one for the women and children. Another large room was used as a dining room and dance hall.

A very large barn was built near the hotel to house the horses and mules of the travelers and Pony Express riders. Several sheds for storing grain and hay were near-by.

"Small as it was, it had the only well on the trail after leaving Seneca and it was an ideal place for travelers to make their noon time stop. The first orchard in Nemaha county was planted at Ash Point by John O'Loughlin.

The cemetery at Ash Point had its beginning when a traveler was killed by lightning just a few miles from Ash Point and his body was buried there.

Many Indians passed thru Ash Point, especially in the fall of the year, when they would visit other tribes in what is now Nebraska. The Pottawatomie tribe were regular visitors at Ash Point--often camping there overnight.

Grandfather O'Loughlin learned the Pottawatomie language. He was the Indians' friend and felt the Nemaha tribe had been unjustly driven out of the Nemaha river valley. The chief of the Pottawatomie tribe called grandfather his "white brother." He called my mother "white brother's papoose." This old

chief stopped at Ash Point after my grandfather's death and when he was told that grandfather had died he actually cried. Indians were considered to be able to hide their emotions but this old chief couldn't.

Ash Point was never molested by the Indians. They continued to use the old trail and stopped at Ash Point long after the railroad was built. The building of the railroad and the birth of Axtell in 1872 was the beginning of the death of Ash Point.

In August 1874 bad news was brought to Ash Point. A rider on horseback came to tell the people the grasshoppers were coming and they'd arrive in a few hours. As he rode on toward Seneca the men at Ash Point went to warn their neighbors, who in turn warned their neighbors.

The women and children hurried to their garden to gather the vegetables. Mother told me they picked their beans, tomatoes and cabbage. They did not pull the onions as the tops were dead and they did not think the grasshoppers would eat the onions. They rushed to the orchard but the apples and six peaches were too green to pick.

About 3 p.m. the grasshoppers came and they were so large that the sun could not be seen.

It did not take them long to eat every growing thing--the green corn, garden plants, leaves on the trees, bark off saplings, green apples and peaches, leaving only the pits of the peaches.

Yes, and they ate the onions!

Next morning holes could be seen in the ground where the onions had been. Many dead grasshoppers were everywhere. These were later raked up and burned.

The winter of 1874 was a hard one! People had to sell their livestock because they had no food to feed them. Wheat and potatoes were the only foods in many homes and they were not plentiful.

In the spring of 1875 farmers planted corn as usual, but no sooner were the first green blades above the ground than eggs laid by grasshoppers the summer before, were hatched. The young grasshoppers ate the crops once more and then many flew away. The rains came and late corn and late garden crops were planted. The rains helped destroy the remaining grasshoppers and with a late frost in 1875 the settlers' crops matured and they had a fair crop. Food was more plentiful that winter. There was no government aid to farmers and no food stamps were issued in those 70's--the 1870's.

We've come a long ways since the days when a long, long trail went a winding thru Nemaha and Marshall counties, and I'm proud to be the granddaughter of the founder of Ash Point.

**01****NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM****02**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5.00 per person       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.,  
6th and Nemaha,  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NUMBER 73

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2001

PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(02)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmitz	336-6596	(04)
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(03)
	William Rettele	336-6511	(02)
	Carol Kohake	336-3255	(02)
	Ray Hunninghake	336-3790	(02)
	Byron Lear	336-3903	(03)
	Alan Ward	857-3760	(03)
	Pam Davis	336-3928	(03)
	Theresa Hutfles	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04)
	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819	(04)



SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND NEMAHIA COUNTY JAIL.

A view of the museum/jail as it looked in the early 1900's, with the 3rd story. (copied from a postcard owned by S. Feldkamp)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

NEW MEMBERS:

Historical & Genealogy:  
Jane Willis, Upland, CA  
Emily Shaver, Rollo, MO  
Kelsey Shaver, Rollo, MO  
Keith Hailey, Goff, KS

Historical only:  
Darlene Hailey, Goff, KS  
Harold & Lola Schooler, Seneca, KS  
Elaine Tolorski, San Antonio, TX  
William Rettele, Baileyville, KS  
Pam Davis, Seneca, KS  
Jim Kohake, Seneca, KS  
Arden & Bessie Droege, Seneca, KS  
Marvin & Lola Hartman, Pawnee City, NE  
Stacey Heinen, Seneca, KS

In addition to these, we had seven renewals to the genealogical and historical and seventeen to the historical, but there will be twenty-seven dropped for dues.  
PLEASE pay your dues, , if your label is high-lighted.on the expiration date, this will be your LAST ISSUE!!

DID YOU KNOW----to receive special non-profit rate at the post office, we have to mail 200 pieces of mail (news letter), so we NEED your renewals!!

The following is a list of those who have LIFE MEMBERSHIP. They will never be dropped for non-payment of dues. Life membership in \$100.00 paid once.

Marjorie Allison, Seneca  
Peggy Buehler, Tacoma, WA  
Gladys Eaton, Oakland, CA  
Pauline Esslinger, Bern, KS  
Bertha Ford, Wetmore, KS  
Clarence Haug, Seneca  
Anita Heiman, Seneca  
Leonard & Grace Kohake, Seneca  
Flossie Lasley, Stanton, IA  
Christopher Lauer, Los Angles, CA  
Michael Lauer, Caramillo, CA  
Richard Massieon, Seneca  
August & Reva Olberding, Baileyville  
Lorena Ronnebaum, Seneca  
James & Margie Shiek, Bern, KS  
Alyce Smith, Topeka, KS  
Loren Sudbeck, Seneca  
Anita Tuttle, Downey, CA  
Earl & Theda Volz, Sabetha, KS  
Ali Rose Winterschiedt, Seneca  
Joseph J. Yunghans, Emporia, KS

Mary Ann Berkley, Seneca  
Harry C.M. Burger, Seneca  
Mary Enneking, Topeka, KS  
George Everhart, K. C. MO  
Alice Faigh Gardner, Topeka, KS  
Shirley Heideman, Seneca  
Greg Johnson, Troy, KS  
Mildred Lanniug, Seneca  
Andrea Lauer, Weehawken, N.J.  
David & Sally Lauer, Seneca  
Timothy Lauer, Mountain View, CA  
Nora Helen Monroe, Grand Island, NE  
Marcia Philbrick, Seneca  
Francis Schraad, Seneca  
Mary Margaret Shumacher, Dallas, TX  
Mary Sourk, Goff, KS  
Scott Suther, New Carlisle, OH  
Dr. A.E. Vitt, Seneca  
Fr. Richard Wempe, Lawrence, KS  
James Yunghans, Seneca

DECEASED SINCE LAST NEWS LETTER:

Ruth Clowe

Mary Gilbert

In 1895, A contract for Seneca waterworks plant was awarded to James T. Broughal of KC for \$29,000.00.  
In 1925 Seneca installed water meters.

1924 Courier: Charles G. Scrafford was mayor of the city and an organizer of the Universalist Church. The Old Stone Church cost \$9,000.00. As one of the largest contributors, he gave \$1250.00.

NOVEMBER 4, 1863

Memories of the Past Revived by an Extra That Was Forerunner of the Nemaha Courier.

Within the past year or two quite a bit has been written and said about the early history of Nemaha county. Through the loss of the first few years files of the Courier, established by John P. Cone, much was lost as to the authenticity of early county history. Anything occurring during the period of its existence under his management relating to early settlers and incidents would be of no small interest today to those who followed the pioneers into the tractless prairie's and nestled along the wooded streams, and took up the thread of pioneer life and battled with the privations peculiar to the experiences of the early settler in every country.

With the loss of those early files passed into oblivion the local, political, and social and home life of the scattered settlers in the county at that time. Disconnected attempts to give sketches of the doings and events which made up the early history of this section as related from memory by a later generation, never can begin to tell the true tale from 1858 to 1870.

It has been the good fortune of The Tribune within the last thirty years to run across the first sheet of paper ever issued from a Nemaha county press. It dates back to November 4, 1863. On that date was issued a one-eighth sheet, printed on both sides, called the Nemaha Courier-Gazetteer Extra, which was the fore-runner of the Nemaha Courier. In it was briefly announced that the Nemaha Courier would be issued about November 12th at the popular price of \$2 per year. Ben Holliday and "Bob Ridley" had just come in from the wild and wooly west with six buffalo calves, which were to be taken to Connecticut and placed in a private park for Mr. Holliday. "Bob Ridley", so called among his friends and others, was the tall and powerfully built stage driver, Bob Sewell, who had for companions in those days "Sandy" Sterling (who in after years was in the livery business in Seneca). Lon Huff, of Wetmore, and many others since gathered with the great majority, or scattered in different parts of the United States. Bob Sewell settled in Wetmore, where he lived the remainder of his life; and as the story goes was one of nature's noblemen, but died from being himself his worst enemy. Don C. Rising, an early resident of Wetmore, was riding "pony express" about this time, and the town of Granada was a station on the stage and express route. Wetmore was as yet not conceived.

The Extra was issued, we presume, by John P. Cone, although his name does not appear, and the purpose of the enterprise was to give the result of the November election in 1863, which had been held the day previous. The contest must have been a spirited one. We find there were six candidates for sheriff, who were D.B. McKay, William Bolton, J.W. Furrow, A.K. Moore, C. Bodine and J.N. Cline. Bill Bolton was elected and served his time out, and years later became a resident of Minnesota. Dr. McKay spent his life in Seneca and Nemaha county and was one of its most respected citizens. John Furrow quit burning lime in Clear Creek and drifted into the western part of Kansas. A.K. Moore lived to be one of the foremost farmers in the county, and planted one of its first orchards of any considerable size, which was on the farm southeast of Seneca, now owned and tilled by William Mathewson, and where he died more than thirty years ago. He was a bright Mason and one of the first of that fraternity in the county, and which organization had charge and officiated at his burial. In the 13th

representative district George Graham and R. Bradley were the contestants. Mr. Bradley being successful. Hon. George Graham continued to reside in Seneca until his death, after having served the people in official capacity both in county, state and city departments. The G.A.R. post of this city commemorates his name. His widow was married to George Hay, of Savanah, Ill., who was formerly a prominent citizens of this place. The widow is living in Seneca at this date, very enfeebled with age and under the constant care of an attendant. J.C. Hibbard and J.H. Peckham who died about a year ago at Fayetteville, Ark., tried conclusions for the office of county treasurer, and Mr. Peckham was selected by the people. Mr. Hibbard drifted to Topeka and became an editorial writer for several papers, and also a special correspondent William Smith, J. Telfer, H.H. Lanham, G. Lyman and G. Baker were the candidates for register of deeds. William Smith being elected. Mr. Lanham in years following became a resident of Topeka, passing his old age among his children. Baker became the editor of the Jackson County Federal. He was a brother of "Father" Baker of the Topeka Commonwealth, who was also one of the first of the colony that settled at Old Centralia, and was connected with that association and community for a number of years. A short time prior to the election Hon. J.P. Taylor, a brother of J.E. and John M. Taylor, of Seneca, had returned from Oregon and he was prevailed upon to run for probate judge against Dr. Fessenden, and out of the 400 votes then cast in the county, Mr. Taylor received 356. At the ball and banquet given by the successful candidate at this election, Byron Shelly, a prominent citizen of Seneca, and later one of the eminent criminal lawyers of Kansas City, who but a few months since died at Las Vegas, New Mexico, introduced Mr. Taylor as "the gentleman from Oregon". Just what has become of Dr. Fessenden is not certain, but believe he went to Missouri years and years ago, where he practiced his profession. Dr. J.S. Hidden, a resident of Centralia, was elected representative from the 14th district; J.W. Tuller was chosen county clerk; G.W. Lovely, assessor; N. Hocker, surveyor; W. Baxla, coroner. G.W. Lovely was a brother of Mrs. J.P. Taylor and later moved to Wyoming. Mr. Hocker moved to Denver shortly after the expiration of his term of office, and was followed by Mortimer Mathews, who still hangs onto the job.

At the time the Extra was issued there were nine townships, viz: Richmond, Rock Creek, Nemaha, Clear Creek, Home, Capioma, Granada, Red Vermillion and Valley. There were thirteen officials to be elected and forty candidates were in the arena thirsting for office, and it would seem that in later years Nemaha has lost none of her zeal in this direction, as there are usually myriads ready to sacrifice themselves for the good of the great constituency. A portion of the Extra is illustrated and the engravings are something wonderful to behold, and the editor seems to have been in one of his happiest moods.

Much could be written of the growth and advancement of newspaper work in this county since the Extra made its appearance over fifty-three years ago. During that time many have come and many have gone, but the home paper will go on forever. If one man fails the gap is immediately filled, as the local paper is now a necessity and not a novelty. In running over the list of those who have come to this county to fill "a long felt want," we find Cone, Root, Wilkinson, Conner, Wood, Adams, Felt, George, Wren, Wells, Clawson, Davis, Wright, Brundage, Preston, Hogbin, Grinstead, Constant, Tennal, Granger, Perry, Price, Thompson, Wolfley, Jefrey, Tucker, Hardy, Hammel, Brooks, Sargent, Funk, Herolds, McIntyre, Cober, Miller, Willis, Randel, Haughawout, Kerr, Jones, Ingalls, Slocum, Wait, Turrentine, Stowell, Ford, Diggs, Adriance, W.H. and G.F. Jordan, and a number of others we cannot recall.

BROTHER SED A MIGHTY MAN

Under Tree of Life

An Oneidan's Public Service Is An Inspiration to the Young People.

"The smith, a mighty man is he--"

So ran Longfellow's description of the village blacksmith.

That also is true of Sed Stevenson of Oneida but it is not in the sense of brawn that he is entitled to distinction among the many other strong men of Nemaha county. Sed Stevenson is a mighty man because his life for 34 years has been an incentive to right living.

When the flame in Sed Stevenson's forge dies down there will be a long tribute in the Seneca and Sabetha papers. "How much better," reflected a Sabetha correspondent of the Courier Tribune, "if we cast a few flowers now."

And so this paper today prints the inspirational facts collected by R.L. Steibler.

Sed Stevenson, Oneida's only smith, veteran churchman, former mayor and prominent citizen, came to Oneida from Alma, Nebr. where he spent his youth, three and a half decades ago. He taught school in Nebraska for two years before coming to Oneida. Mr. Stevenson learned the blacksmith trade in Alma. In his first year at the trade he worked for the sum of \$3.75 per week, married, lived, paid rent and was happy on this meager salary. He bought coffee at 10¢ a pound, beef steak 3 lbs. for a quarter and other food products in the same price range.

D. Pierce and F.M. Starns, Jr. had shops in Oneida at the time Mr. Stevenson opened up his shop. Pierce later moved to Axtell, where he is now located. When the motor car came along, Starns converted his blacksmith shop into a garage and worked on cars only.

Oneida formerly had a band. It was well known and popular all over northeast Kansas and had a large number of engagements, Sed was the leader. He has been superintendent of the Oneida Christian Church. Sunday School for the past 34 years, except one year. Has been choir leader in this same church for 34 years. Mrs. Stevenson has been the church organist and teacher for the past 30 years.

In the past 34 years, Mr. Stevenson and his wife sang and played at 85 per cent of all the funerals in Oneida. In all this time, he has never refused to close his shop and assist at a funeral.

Public spirited Sed Stevenson stood for everything in the community that would benefit the town in which he lived. He served the citizens of Oneida as mayor for two terms, has been on the city council for more than 20 years and is at this time president of the council.

When the electric lights came to Oneida in 1910, it was Sed Stevenson who was one of the promoters of this improvement. He knew it would make Oneida a better town in which to live. Sed was the first trouble shooter and 15 years served the telephone company. He learned the telephone by actual experience, having made a study of it from the time telephones first came into popular use.

For a number of years, Mr. Stevenson had a helper in his shop, O.O. Dawson, Oneida's present postmaster. Wren Dawson, a son of Postmaster Dawson was also a helper. Wren received his first mechanical ideas from Sed Stevenson in the blacksmith shop. He advanced rapidly. At this time, he is chief engineer of a tractor company in Charles City, Iowa. His next helper was Donald Dawson. He too, is a son of Postmaster Dawson. Donald worked in the shop for a number of years, then went out into the world with the

fine Christian teachings of "Brother Sed" and today is organist in Grand Avenue Temple in Kansas City. Frequently we hear him on the radio. The Stevensons have one daughter, Mrs. Roy Plau of Fort Collins, Colorado.

The happy smile, the Christian life, the spirit of let something good be said," reflected in this man's, all these years, has caused many young men and women to take him as their pattern of living. They have been better citizens as the result of following the footsteps of "Brother Sed."

(Reprinted: Courier Tribune, 8 October 1936)

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The Nemaha County Historical Society board members met Tuesday, November 6, 2001 in the Burger Annex at the museum in Seneca.

Present were: Naomi Turner, Ray Hunninghake, Richard Schmitz, Bill Rettele, Carol Kohake, Theresa Hutfles, Joyce Olberding, Pauline Esslinger, and Pam Davis.

Joyce, President, opened the meeting at 7 pm. Naomi gave the treasurers report and discussed the lunch stands we had since July and the Open House.

We made a nice profit from these projects and are now able to purchase some equipment we need for our kitchen and make some improvements as needed. We want to thank everyone for their help and support for these projects which are needed to keep your museum thriving.

Several other projects were discussed and a few will be carried over until the next meeting on February 5. 2002.

This was our last meeting of the year, so until next year, the Historical Society wishes to convey their GREETINGS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all their members and friends who have supported us this year.

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#### Courier-Tribune, 12 September 1923

J.V.D. Patch, artist, died in the Masonic Home at Plattsburg, Nebraska on September 3rd and was buried with Masonic Rites in the family lot at Nebraska City on Thursday of last week. Mr and Mrs Patch formerly lived in Seneca. Mr Patch painted the portraits of the District Judges hanging in the Nemaha County Court Room and did considerable work for Seneca people, instructing a large class in art. Mrs Patch died two and a half years ago. The only surviving member of his family is a son, Edward R. Patch of Las Angeles. Mr and Mrs Patch were residents of St. Joseph for twenty five years.

(The pictures of the Judges are now in the upstairs hall of the museum in Seneca, but they are not identified) Submitted by Dorothy Pearl Murphy

## I AM THE FLAG

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory.  
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up . . . and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom.

I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little bit truer.

I bow to no one!

I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped -- and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years.

I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.

I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam know me.

I was there. I led my troops, I was dirty, battle worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me.

And I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free.

It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my own country.

And when it's by those whom I've served in battle - it hurts.

But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield,

When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,  
or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,  
I am proud.

**MY NAME IS OLD GLORY.**

**LONG MAY I WAVE.**

**DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN**

**LONG MAY I WAVE.**

01

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

02

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5 00 per person

Renewal

Lifetime-historical @ \$100 00 per person

New

Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10 00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

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Volume 74 February-March 2002

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NEMAH A CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM ANNEX  
6<sup>th</sup> + NEMAH A ST. SENECA

# SOUP DAY MARCH 21

HAM & BEAN  
CORN BREAD      VEGETABLE BEET  
HAM SALAD SANDwiches      Chili  
FREE WILL DONATION  
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM      DESSERT

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6TH & NEMAHIA ST. SENECA, KS

# SOUP DAY MARCH 20

VEGETABLE BEET

HAM & BEAN  
CORN BREAD

Chili

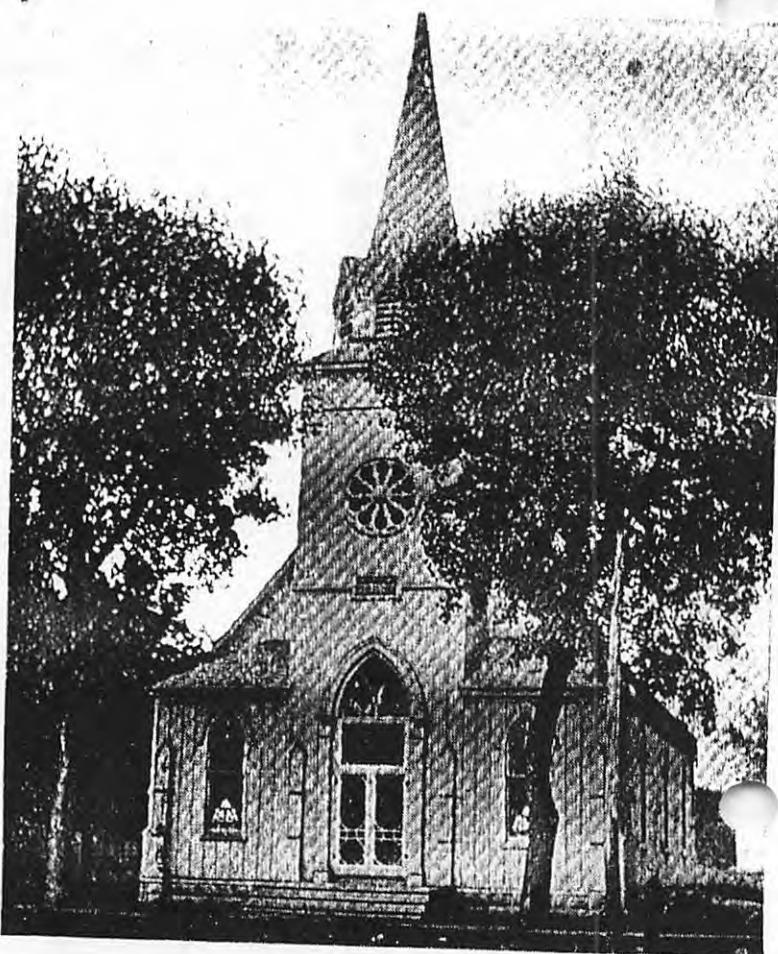
FREE WILL DONATION  
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

DESSERT

## I'm Not Old... I'm Merely Mature!

Today at the drugstore, the clerk was a gent.  
From my purchase this chap took off ten percent.  
I asked for the cause of the lesser amount.  
And he answered, "Because of the Senior Discount."  
I went to the corner for a burger and fries,  
And there once again got quite a surprise.  
The clerk poured some coffee, which he handed me.  
He said, "For you seniors, the coffee is free!"  
Understand I'm not old - I'm merely mature  
But some things are changing - temporarily,  
I'm sure.  
The newspaper print gets smaller each day,  
And people speak softer - can't hear what they say.  
My teeth are my own (I have the receipt)  
And my glasses identify the people I meet.  
Oh, I've slowed down a bit - not a lot, I am sure,  
You see, I'm not old - I'm merely mature.  
The gold in my hair has been bleached by the sun.  
You should see all the damage the chlorine has done.  
Washing my hair has turned it all white,  
But don't say it's gray - saying blond is just right.  
My friends all get older - much faster than me,  
They seem much more wrinkled from what I can see.  
I've got "character lines," not wrinkles for sure,  
But don't call me old - just call me mature.  
The steps in the houses they are building today  
Are so high they take your breath all away,  
And the streets are much steeper than ten years ago.  
That should explain why my walking is slow.  
But I'm keeping up on what's hip and what's new,  
And I still think I can dance a mean boogaloo.  
I'm still in the running - in this I'm secure -  
I'm really not old - I'm only mature.

Author Unknown



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST.

### Reader's Digest:

Which President, while living in the White House, regularly 'skinny dipped' in the Potomac River?

From 1825 to 1829, there was a 'moon' on the river around 5 a.m., when John Quincy Adams stripped down and took his morning swim.

Abraham Lincoln's oldest son was affected by 3 Presidential assassinations: 1865, his father, 1881, James Garfield, and 1901, William McKinley. Thereafter he avoided functions, the president was attending

114

The Seneca Tribune, September 5, 1918

BEFORE GOING OVER

Kelly Boy's Account of Trip From Camp Dodge, Iowa, to Embarkation Camp on Long Island.

"Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, August 11, 1918.

Dear Mother,

Well we are here at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York. We got out here to the camp last night about 12 o'clock. Everybody was feeling fine with the exception of two fellows who were sick. One had the measles, the other throat trouble.

We had a fine trip. Everyone seemed to have a fine time.

This is quite different from Camp Dodge. We are living in tents here, eight men to a tent. But our kitchen is a small wooden building. I guess we won't be here very long from what they tell us. Of course, you never can tell.

Our trip--I will attempt to tell you a few things about it. It was too great to tell very much, besides we saw so much I can't think of all now. We went through Chicago, for one important place, went under the St. Charles river on the Canadian line and came out on the Canadian side. Canada seemed to be a fine place--they have such beautiful trees up through Michigan and southern Canada. We went through Niagara Falls and there we were marched out to see the falls. It was after night but they had lights flashed on the falls so we could see as good as day. They are certainly a wonderful sight. We went through the city of Buffalo, also. We traveled through the Allegheny mountains and took a swim in the Susquehanna river. It is a beautiful river clear as can be. Then we came to New York City, Jersey City, and after we hit Newark, New Jersey, it was just one continuation of city. In all the big towns they blew the whistles and hallooed until you would have thought the world was being blown up. When we got to New York, we got off the train and marched a little way and onto a boat. We were on the boat an hour or more coming to Long Island across East River, which divides New York from Long Island. Went under Brooklyn Bridge, which is one of the seven wonders of the world, and I can say it is a wonderful thing. After we got to Long Island we took a train and rode quite a while then we marched to the camp.

We can't see the ocean from here but we are only four miles from it and I intend to go out there today if we are allowed to leave. We have a Y. M. C. A. here in a big tent and there is a piano and victrola and everything same as any Y.

They may give each man a chance to go over to New York City before they go over. So I suppose I will get to see more of the city.

The people at the New York station where we unloaded told out top sergeant that we were the peppiest and happiest bunch that ever struck there. We were all Singing and having a fine time and I guess we must have made a mighty good showing because you know lots of soldiers come into New York. They say the 349th Infantry, that Crandall and that bunch were in, have already gone over. The Red Cross ladies in New York gave us hot coffee and sandwiches last night at the depot.

We had inspection this morning for lice and everything imaginable. I will close now. Am well and feeling fine.

Your loving son, Parley Dennis, Co. A. 339 M.G. Bn. Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, American E.F. via N.Y. (To Mrs Mary Dennis, Kelly)

The Seneca Tribune, July 18, 1918

LETTER FROM MISS STHAL

Boche Brought Down Claims Did Not Know Was Over Hospital  
From the DuBois Press, DuBois Nebraska:

Miss Nellie Stahl, writing to a friend under the date of May 23, says:  
I have just received your letter of April 23. It seems to take about a month  
for your letters to come through.

Last week I noticed in the Advance that you didn't understand me when  
I remarked in a letter last spring that we had "the wind up." Well, if you  
had been here a few nights ago you would have understood all right. We had  
many visitors who came about 10 and didn't leave until 1 A.M. And believe  
me we were glad when they left. In fact, we really thought our time had  
come. There were about a thousand casualties in this district, including  
five Canadian nurses.

Our boys succeeded in bringing down one Boche plane. The pilot was  
killed, but there were two other men in it, and they were only wounded.  
They said they had been ordered to bomb this district for three consecutive  
nights. However, no enemy planes came over the next night. The third night  
we had another visit and everybody took to the hills. High places seem to  
be the safest spots in an aerial bombardment; but for my part I should rather  
be in bed and cover up my head where I could not see it.

One of the boches who was brought down said when he found there were  
only hospitals here that he was sorry and that he did not know he was above  
hospitals. Of course that was nice (?) of him to say that after he had been  
brought down and wounded and was expecting to be taken care of. But I am  
bound to add that he is in our hospital now and is receiving the best of  
care.

Did you get my letter of last spring in which I told about having visited  
Amiens and saw the wonderful Gothic cathedral there? It was one of the four  
largest and most beautiful in the world. Now, they tell us, it is mostly  
in ruins.

Yesterday I had half a day off and with other nurses walked about six  
miles to a village for tea. We also had dinner in the garden there, with  
beautiful flowers all around us. The forget-me-nots make a perfect blue  
blanket and by the time they are gone the poppies will be out.

Our main amusement these days is picnics. We think nothing of walking  
ten or twelve miles in an afternoon. We take our eats and with my big thermos  
bottle full of coffee go to some charming spot in the woods. I have never  
found anything as useful as that thermos bottle. Last winter we would fill  
it with hot coffee at night and it was still hot in the morning.

All the girls want to join me in thanking you for it.  
Referring again to the question whether or not packages will be allowed to  
reach us unless accompanied by our written request beforehand. I may say  
that our colonel reports that he has never had any orders to sign requests  
for anything we want. That is because we are attached to British forces,  
not to the American and the order governing the shipment of packages to  
American soldiers or nurses does not apply to us.

Well, I don't know another thing to write and so shall stop now and  
go help get our patients ready for tea.

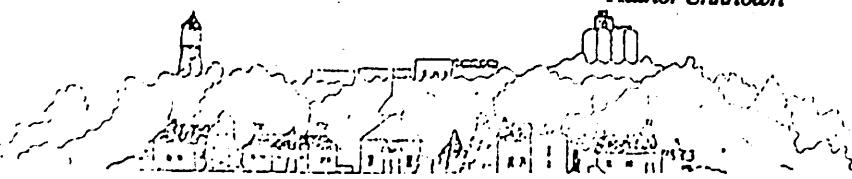
# Small Towns Are The Life

I know you are in a small town when...

- Every sport is played on dirt.
- Third Street is on the edge of town.
- The runway of the airport is terraced.
- You are run off main street by a combine.
- The biggest business in town sells farm machinery.
- The polka is more popular than disco on Saturday night.
- You miss a Sunday at Church and receive get-well cards.
- You dial a wrong number and talk for 15 minutes anyway.
- You write a check on the wrong bank and it covers for you.
- The pickups on main street outnumber the cars three-to-one.
- You don't use your turn signal because everyone knows where you are going.
- You can't walk for exercise because every car that passes offers you a ride.
- You drive into a ditch five miles out of town and word gets back to town before you do.
- You are born on June 13th and your family receives gifts from the local merchants because you are the first baby of the year.
- Someone asks how you feel, then listens to what you say.

Thank God for small towns...  
and the people who live in them.

—Author Unknown



1914

The old cobblestone sidewalks on Main St. were being removed.

History recorded, that they were laid by William Heilfeldt, who afterwards became U. S. Senator from Idaho.

In Memory:

Grace Dunn, Seneca

1875

A large party of railroad magnates came out to Seneca over the Denver road on Tuesday last, and took supper at Smith's Hotel. The train that brought them out was one of the finest ever pulled over the road.

# Ladies!

Have the past few weeks of hot weather worried you?

If So, Buy one  
of our

80 pounds capacity  
Refrigerators, a splendid thing for family use, for \$12.50

Or an Ice Cream Freezer, 2 qts, for..... \$1.50

Or a fully warranted Gasoline 2 burner Stove, for \$3.50

Or are you putting up Fruit? We are selling 1-quart fruit cans for 45c per dozen.

# Winkler & Bateman.

All kinds of Tin and Sheet Iron Work Done Promptly and Satisfactorily....

## Courier-Democrat

P. P. FISHER, Proprietor and Proprietors.  
M. L. MCINTIRE, Business Mgr. { Editors.  
G. H. HEROLD,

SENECA, KANSAS, JULY 27, 1900.

FORT SCOTT CONVENTION.  
The latest reports from Fort Scott say that J. W. Bridenthal, popular, of Topeka, has been nominated for Governor, Abe Frakes, democrat, of Trego county, for Secretary of State, Hingb P. Farrelly, democrat, of Chanute, for Attorney General, Conway Marshall democrat, of Garnett

**02**

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**03**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## JUNE DINNER MEETING

SUNDAY, 1 June 2003

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6th & Nemaha

6:30 pm HARRY BURGER ANNEX

### POT LUCK

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD IN A COVERED DISH

DRINKS, DESSERT, & TABLE SERVICE FURNISHED

COME EARLY AND TOUR THE MUSEUM

### IN MEMORY:

Alan Ward, Centralia, passed away May 17, 2003  
He was a member of the Nemaha County Historical Society  
and served as president in 1999-2000.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year is fast coming upon us. We have had good and positive events here at the museum.

FIRST, our members are a great help in keeping things up to date, and never hesitate to help if asked. We also have some great volunteers helping in the museum. If you haven't been in for awhile, you should come by and visit with our hostess and the volunteer of the day who keep the museum open during the summer. There have been some wonderful comments about our museum, by tourists and others here visiting, who have toured the museum. "How nice our articles are displayed" and "My it's not some stuffy old building crammed full of things".

We do have one paid lady, our hostess, who keeps the building open from May to October. We also try to have a volunteer come in the afternoons to help in the office. If you wish to volunteer let me know.

SECOND, We have been making repairs, like old houses this is a necessity! six windows were rotting, they were replaced, and the north porch had been repaired. More needs to be done, and we keep working at it.

THIRD, we are working on a grant, if we receive it we will be able to fix the front porch floor, etc. and other things that are coming up.

Doesn't the lot east of the museum look nice? (now IF some grass will grow.)

Our June meeting will be held in the museum annex. Hoping to see more of you there, it will be a pot-luck.

I am very, very proud to say "I am a member of the Nemaha County Historical Society."

Your President,

Joyce Olberding

---

#### IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

It's time to pay those pesky historical , and genealogical if you are a dual member, society membership dues again. \$5.00 historical, \$10.00 both.

Some members save themselves the bother of paying every year by paying for several years at a time. If you do that be sure to note it on your check. The following have paid for 2003-2004:

Regis Becker

Robert Cummings

Lorryne Foltz

Lucille Lierz

Donald Moss

Jean Niehues

Bob and Grace Strathman

Albert and Ellen Winkler

Rose Sarna, Jefferson, OH, is a new genealogical and historical society member

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The Seneca Tribune, September 12, 1918

BATTLES IN THE SKY

Some Things That Impress American Boys, But This One Will Be Glad When He Returns.

John LeRoy, whose home is at Marysville, but who was for a year or two employed by Walter Sperling, writes as follows to his former employer, from France, under date of July 13:

I have been intending to write you for some time, but since I arrived I have been so busy that I have hardly had time to write even the folks.

Since I got separated from my outfit at Hoboken, N.J., I have not seen them, and a few weeks ago I was sent up here with a replacement.

We have been on the front and are now in the reserve line. Expect to be relieved soon and get back to a rest camp. The Germans were unable to locate our position, so did not bother us much although at times things were a little interesting. Air battles were quite common, and I saw a couple of planes brought down.

I have seen quite a number of prisoners, and they seem to be about 16 and 40 years of age, and each one was glad to be captured. They can't understand the Americans and try to show great contempt for them, but our infantry and marines sure keep them wondering what will happen next. We gave them something to remember on July Fourth, and they will have a whole lot to think of when this is over.

I don't care much for this country and will be glad to get back to the States. France is full of wonderful places and it is a great experience I saw a little of Paris going through once in truck with a bunch of troops.

Best regards to everyone in Seneca--

Yours truly, Corp. John F. LeRoy, Btry C.F.A.1 American E.F., France

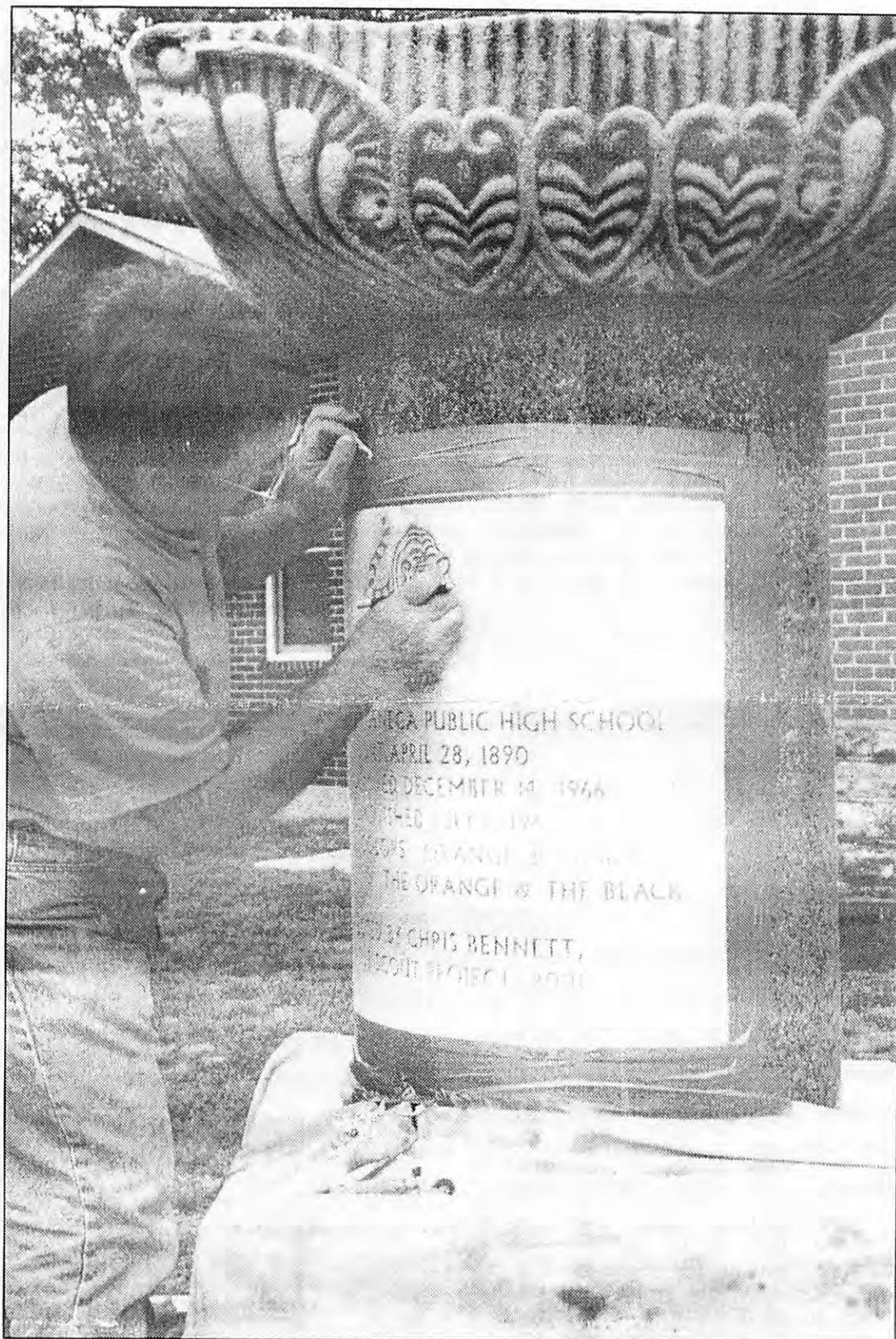
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MEMBERSHIP DUES

The membership dues for the Nemaha County Historical Society is from JULY 1 to JULY 1. Dues are \$5.00 per person for the Historical Society and \$10.00 per person for BOTH the Historical Society and the Genealogy Society. To become a member of the Genealogy Society you must include the Historical Society dues, this is a requirement of the by-laws.

News letters are published four times a year, May, August, November and February. We will discontinue the practice of putting an 'expires' date on your mailing label and expect you to remember to pay by JULY 1. You will have a grace period until the August mailing of the paper to mail your dues.

If you are delinquent and want a news letter you missed, we will mail you one on receipt of \$1.00 for each paper.



This column is from the Seneca Public High school which was torn down. It is the support from the East porch. Now it is on the north side of the museum.

Marty Gough of Overland Park last week prepared to sandblast an inscription on a polished stone column that once graced the old Seneca Public High School. The column had earlier been installed at the Historical Society's Museum by Chris Bennett, an Eagle Scout project. Seneca High School Alumni Association paid for the graving.

The Seneca Tribune, July 11, 1918  
 WHILE ON THE TRIP ACROSS

Wore Life Preservers Constantly in Submarine Zone--Destroyers and Subchasers Welcome Escort.

On board steamer, June 1, 1918--

Dear Folks:

I expect you will find this to be a real dry letter, but I can't say much on this trip so far on account of right censoring.

The weather has been grand. One couldn't have expected a better sea. And we were fortunate in securing a real nice boat--a steady one. Very few were sick. I came awful near it one morning. They dropped out of the dining saloon one morning one by one, and an officer across from me got up and left. That was too much for me, I beat it also, but by the time I got to my stateroom I was O. K. and haven't been bothered since.

There is a real good bunch on board, a few Y. M. C. A. men and Red Cross nurses to make it interesting. We have good music and a program now and then. The Masons were going to have a meeting last night, but come to find out there were so many aboard they had to put it off.

Cedric and Russell Riffle are on ship. Ced is a sergeant major and Russell a color sergeant.

The officers travel pretty nice: the men also, but crowded.

We are in the submarine zone. I've worn a life preserver to bed, to my meals and everywhere. While we are in the zone we wear our side arms and belts at all times. I am in command of a lifeboat if anything happens. But the strain is somewhat relieved tonight. This evening a bunch of torpedo destroyers and sub-chasers came out to meet us and are cruising around, so we feel pretty safe. There are a number of troop ships in our convoy. Those battle ships surely looked good and they look ready to scrap. We expect to land in England in a few days.

I have a slight cold, but think I will weather it. There have been lots of interesting things happening and I hope it's over soon so we can be free to talk.

You will get my card I wrote at New York, when we land over here.

My address will be Lieut. Frank E. Winkler, 128 F.A. American Expeditionary Forces, and that's all. I am well and will write when I can.- Frank.

*WWI*

A SENECA BOY ON A SUBMARINE 1918

First of the week C.H. Herold received a letter from his son Andrew. He had just returned to New London, Conn. after a seven days cruise on the Atlantic looking for German submarines. Incidentally he stated that all day they ran submerged, and at night came to the surface. There were twenty-five men aboard and were in a room twenty feet square. Good-eating is provided and could go to the cupboard at anytime. Andrew's duty was to decipher any wireless messages that might be picked up. After finishing at New London, he will go to Annapolis for four months instruction pertaining to the submarine.

Andrew is the only one from Nemaha county attached to submarine service and at present ranks as junior lieutenant.

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	Mary A. York	336-3165	(03)
	Pam Davis	336-3928	(03)
	Theresa Hutfles	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04)
	William Rettele	336-6511	(05)

NEMAHIA County Historical  
Society 6<sup>th</sup> and Nemaha, Seneca,  
KS

## OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 5, 2003

Lunch STAND	TOURS	HOMEMADE PIE'S
CORN Shelling	Pot O' GOLD	SCHWAN ICE CREAM
BUTTER CHURNING	Buggy RIDES	TRICOTTE SEWING MACHINE
BLACKSMITH	BARREL RIDE	SOAP MAKING

The Board of the Nemaha County Historical Society met August 12, 2003 at 7 PM in the museum annex.

Present were, Joyce Olberding, Naomi Turner, Richard Schmitz, William Rettele, Carole Kohake, Byron Lear, Theresa Hutfles and Eugene Visser.

Mr & Mrs Dean Rial were present to let us know how the grant application was coming. It was a good presentation. They will be back in November to make a report.

Naomi Turner gave a financial report. The Alan Ward Memorial was \$465.00. \$2800 for removal of house on east property, \$880.00 for windows and \$506.00 for material, \$1900 for insurance. As of August 1, 2003, there is \$11,677.65 in the money market fund and \$2,858.74 in the checking account.

The Rosa Tate Mitchell estate remembered the museum with a \$5000 CD that earned \$772.00 interest.

All items in the old hospital have been removed.

Richard Schmitz reported the City Council approved the building of an annex east of the present annex in that vacant lot. Harry Burger has offered to build this new building. It will house the items we had in the hospital.

Jim Roberts attended the meeting at 8 PM. to get input on the new building he will build. He will meet with Mr. Burger to make further plans.

Richard made a motion to purchase a TV and video set for the annex. Gene Visser second. Motion passed.

It was suggested that an ad be put in the Courier, to see if anyone has a very old picture of the jail. Mrs. Rial is needing them.

Richard made a motion to adjourn. Theresa second. Motion carried.

A September meeting will be announced soon to make arrangements for the Open House in October.

Open House will be on Sunday only, October 5.

We will have the lunch stand at the Community Building, October 4.

#### APPREHENDED DESERTER

Deputy Sheriff John Taylor made a trip to Leavenworth Monday to escort a deserter to the federal prison. Jacob H. Burkdale had been about Centralia a month or more, posing as a government agent engaged in locating deserters. Previous to arresting him, Sheriff Carman questioned him as to his service. He professed to have been sent out by Col. Crowley from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Carman got in touch with the fort. Col. Crowley had been moved to Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina and upon talking the investigation to it was found that Burkdale had been posted as a deserter since March 1, 1918. He is 26 years old, had enlisted at Nevada, Mo. had received training and belonged to the machine gun company of the 54th infantry. He had left the camp January 5th.

Reprint Courier c.1918'

Reprinted from the July Courier-Tribune year ?, "It's fair time!"

FENCELINE

Jody Holthaus, N.C.E. Ag-Agency

TIS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FAIR

"Tis the night before the fair and all through the house,  
Every creature is stirring, even the mouse..  
The children aren't sleeping and they're not in their beds.  
They're hemming their dresses and clipping steer heads.

The crafts were hung by the children with care,  
Hoping the glue would dry before the fair.  
And momma in her kerchief and me and my cap.  
Are wondering how we got ourselves into this crap.

When out in the kitchen there arose such a clatter,  
Only to discover there's a hair in the fair cookie batter!  
Then what to our wondering eyes should appear.  
But we just used the last tag that was near.

Without hesitation I sprang to the phone  
to see if our club leader happened to be home.  
Her course more rapid than eagles she flew  
to give us a tag and a label or two.

We tried to get the woodworking varnished real quick.  
Hoping to get to the fairgrounds without even one nick.

The pigs were scrubbed cleaner than I'd ever seen.  
We'd fed them just right, they're meaty and lean.

Our son was readying his box, finding 'is tack.  
He looked like a peddler just filling 'is pack.

I thought for a moment of how the children have grown,  
I know it won't be much longer and from the nest they'll have flown.

I went about my task with a much better attitude.  
Checking scrapbooks to be sure their pictures were all glued.

We all worked together and finished late in the night.  
As a family together we greeted the morning light.  
When the fair is all over we'll be both happy and sad.  
But my kids as 4-H'ers have made me a proud dad!

Be sure to come to the fair!  
It's bigger and better than ever.  
I realize I say that every year, but nonetheless, it's true!!!!

#### MEMBERSHIP

Since the last newsletter we have had 43 renewals and 4 new memberships. The new members are Marjorie Costello, West Des Moines, IA Historical Society and Tamara Miller, Topeka, KS; Norma Murray, Manassas, VA and Bradford Miller, Xenia, OH Genealogical and Historical Societies.

#### MEMORIALS

Memorials have been given in memory of Alan Ward and Anna Hammes by their families and friends

---

This tidbit was taken from the WPA files in the Seneca Public Library. Alice Larkin and Herman Nickamp were the first couple married in the Sacred Heart Parish in Baileyville on May 7, 1912. The Courier-Tribune, 1937, Issue 68.

Reprint from  
the TIGER yearbook 1930

#### 23rd Psalm a la Lizzie

The Ford is my chariot  
I shall not want another  
It makes me lie down in mud puddles  
It destroyeth my soul  
It leadeth me in paths of ridicule  
            for its namesake  
It prepareth a breakdown in the  
            presence of mine enemies  
I fear more evil when it is with me  
It annointeth my face with oil  
Its water boileth over:  
Surely to goodness, if Lizzie follows  
            me all the days of my life,  
I shall dwell in the house of  
            nuts forever.

# Lack of schooling doesn't hurt parents' help

Written in Memory of my Mother  
and Dad, Myrtle and Frank Ward

## Chapter VII (Part 3)

### SCHOOL DAYS (continued)

Neither Mother nor Dad had even as much as a grade school education. They would go to school only in the seasons of the year when they were not needed to help at home. Mother began to "work out" at an early age to help Grandma support the family, so her schooling was very limited and Daddy would stay out to help his father with the farm work. In spite of their lack of formal education, I thought and still think they were very sharp people.

Arithmetic was always very difficult for me, especially the written-out problems we had in the seventh and eighth grades. Dad would sit down with me at night—and try to make me understand how to solve them. He was always able to arrive at the same answer as the key in the back of the book, even though he could not always be sure that I understood them. To this day, at the age of 86 years, he can easily figure in his head while those of us of the younger generation require an adding machine or a calculator to come up with the correct answer.

Mother excelled in spelling and reading. She would read books aloud to her three little girls in the long winter evenings. No TV then. I remember so well when she read "Little Women" to us. How the tears flowed when Little Beth died. Little did we know that one day soon our own little sister, too, would die.

Mother would recite poems and readings to us. One reading was about a fireman who risked his life

## From The Heart of Rose



By  
*Rose Domer*  
Contributing  
Writer

and died saving the lives of two little children trapped in a fire in an upstairs apartment. Her voice revealed the excitement of the rescue, and we would sit spellbound with tears in our eyes as she told how the fireman carried the two babies to the mother and then collapsed at her feet in death.

I would give anything to have that reading in my possession now, but it is lost to us all because it was never put down on paper.

Mother would have special little "quotes" that she would say to us at proper times. When we had a lot of work ahead of us, which was often, Mother would say, "Work while you work, play while you play, that is the way to be happy and gay."

Another was, "Over and over again, no matter which way I turn, I'll always find in the book of life, some lesson I must learn; I must take my turn at the mill, and grind out the golden grain; I must work with a resolute will, over and over again."

The one she would quote most often was, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." This golden Rule was reflected in her lifestyle.

I would give all I own to hear my Mother's voice in poetry and song, but, alas, her voice is still. She sang to us from the time we were babies—songs like "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen," "When the

Leaves Come Drifting Down," "The Old Rugged Cross" and "In the Garden," to name a few.

Oftentimes, Mother would teach us some of the lessons of life by telling us stories. She was very wise because these were the lessons we most remembered. One such lesson was about cleaning the kitchen after baking.

She told the story of the handsome prince who searched his kingdom for a young maiden who after doing the baking, cleaned up all the flour, washed the pots and pans and left the kitchen shining clean. When, finally, so the story goes, after searching for a very long time, a young lady was found and the handsome prince made her his bride. Sounds like Cinderella, doesn't it? I wouldn't be surprised if Mother made it up just to prove her point.

To this day, after baking pies or cake or bread, I remember that story and make my kitchen sparkling clean. Guess I am still watching for that handsome prince to come along. Well, maybe, on second thought, he did appear, and married me 37 years ago. He is the prince who now lovingly calls me Mrs. Clean.

Sometimes it is not so lovingly when I insist on his cleaning his

workshop or worse still when I get tired of waiting and do it myself. He has even been known to lock it and hide the key.

One day when I was about 5 years old, I guess I had been naughty although that part I don't remember. At any rate, Mother picked up a little switch to apply a little just punishment. As she approached me, I don't know whatever possessed me for I was seldom a disobedient child, but I started to run from her.

Mother began to chase me, calling as she ran that I had better stop because the harder I ran, the more she would spank when she caught me. All I could think of was the sting of that switch on my legs and little bottom. To make a long story short, after chasing me two or three times around the yard, Mother finally caught me, but by that time she was laughing so hard she couldn't punish me.

Praise God for Mother's wonderful sense of humor.

**Note:** The new edition of Rose's book, which includes this book as well as her latest poems, is now available at The Sabetha Herald office, at Nila's Gem and Gift Shoppe, or by calling Rose directly at 785-284-0046.

Reprint  
SABETHA HERALD

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5.00 per person

Renewal

Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person

New

Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538

Ten members of the Nemaha County Historical Society met Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at the museum Annex in Seneca. Attending were Naomi Turner, Pam Davis, Bryon Lear, Theresa Hutfles, Ray Huninghake, Gene Visser, Bill Rettele, Pauline Esslinger, Joyce Olberding, and Richard Schmitz.

President Joyce Olberding opened the meeting, and Naomi reviewed the financial statement. Joyce reported that Janice Lamping remembered the Historical Society in her will, the treasurer has received the money and now it can be determined where it will best aid our Society. To remember Janice and her generosity, her name will be added to our Memorial plaque.

Repairs needed when the weather permits, a south window in the lower jail section needs new glass and the stool in the kitchen restroom needs replacing. A inside screen door is to be placed on the Annex door, so when the door is opened, the flies cannot come in. This door proved to be a great asset, but the flies thought so too!! The electrical problem in the kitchen has been solved in time for 'soup day'.

The rest of the meeting was spent organizing 'soup day'. It will be March 21, in the museum Annex, from 10:30 AM until 1:30 PM. There will be chili, vegetable and ham/bean soups with cornbread, ham salad sandwiches, relishes, etc. and a choice of desserts. The 'pie lady' will be calling her list for donations for desserts. If you wish to help, contact Joyce Olberding or Naomi Turner. Mark it on your calendar, see you, March 21!

#### NEW MEMBERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Bonnie & Roger Huerter, Leawood, KS

#### NEW MEMBERS HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES:

Glenne Hammes, Cheyenne, WY  
Michelle Zila, Merriam, KS

There are still 22 members who have not renewed for 2002. Our fiscal year runs from June 30 to June 30 and if you weren't paid by then, you are delinquent. PLEASE check your mailing label, and send your dues.

THANK YOU!!! Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Membership chairman

PREPARE TO WORK BERN COAL MINE

Opening a New Shaft of the Durner Farm

Reprint from Courier-Tribune, 2 March 1931

Work at the coal mine on the Rosa Durner farm north of Bern has been progressing rapidly. Messrs. Walker, Scott and Pointer who secured a lease of J. S. Wittwer about three weeks ago have been working diligently since Monday and uncovered a vein of coal that measures 18 to 24 inches thick.

They first went into the old shaft and located the old works where coal was mined back as far as 1880. Then a shaft was started east of there and they went down possibly 20 to 25 feet where the same vein was located. A man interested in mining and one who has had wide experience came down from Clarinda, Iowa last week and it was his opinion that a vein of good coal would be located if this shaft were sunk for another 20 to 25 feet.

However the men abandoned this for the present and started into the hill between the old shaft and the new one. They have a large entrance at this place and it is here that they expect to continue operations at the present time.

It will take considerable work to get things in shape before they will be able to start actual mining operations. They are now working to get cars and track ready. The entrance will be cleared of rock and a larger room near the coal supply will be blasted out.

They plan to have coal ready for market in about ten days to two weeks and they believe that when once started they will be able to get it out in paying quantities.

Old residents, who remember the coal mining industry near Bern in the early eighties and who have used tons of the coal, say it is of very good quality and fine burning coal.

Indications are that coal is to be found in these hills in abundance. As far as we know or have been able to learn the third vein has never been mined, which miners say is the best quality and usually found in large quantities

Practically every well that has been drilled in the territory north of here has disclosed coal deposits. When the well was drilled at the Hilt elevator years ago the drill passed through a 36 inch vein. Coal has been mined on the Nemaha river west of Bern and the Charley Hofmann farm just west of the present mine was the scene of extensive coal mining operations

in early days. Two shafts were sunk on this place and hundreds of tons of coal were taken from the mine. Mr. Hofmann still has a plat of the under ground tunnel. The tools, track, etc. were all left in the mine when operations ceased for the want of capitol, coupled with the fact that the railroad came, hauling coal from eastern mines at a price that furnished stiff competition to the local operations.

This project will be watched with interest and no doubt will be given financial support if everything works out all right. It is at least a project that should command the interest of all as well as hearty support. It's not a wild cat scheme, the coal is there. Can it be mined in paying quantities? Miners say it can....Bern Gazette.

The Seneca Tribune, August 22, 1918  
MEN OF 1918 CLASS CALLED

The local board received a call for a contingent of thirteen men to entrain for Ft. Riley during the week beginning August 26th. The men w/  
will fill this call will all be from class one of the registrants of Ju.  
5, 1918, thus will be the youngest contingent yet to leave, all being 21  
or barely 22 years of age. Those notified by the board to fill the quota  
are:

Thomas Shaughnessy, Axtell  
W. C. C. Mason, Goff  
Roy Anderson, Wetmore  
Andrew F. Strahm, Sabetha  
Wm. M. Smith, Centralia  
Wm. M. Casey, Corning  
Edward R. Levick, Seneca  
Jos. Henry Strathman, Seneca  
Harry Largent, Seneca  
Alvin Geo. Becker, Seneca  
Scott A. Blood, Goff  
Luther Lister, Centralia  
Clarence E. Mayer, Wetmore  
One alternate is called,  
Earl L. Ayers, Sabetha

LITTLE HUN CHASFRS

Buy War Savings Stamps and help Uncle Sam buy a gun for one of his  
soldier boys.

Back the Kansas boys over there near the Swiss border--for they are  
backing you.

A bulging war chest will help put a crimp in the kaiser's army quick  
the anything else.

You can help wipe out the greatest sin against civilization by lending  
your savings to your government.

The Seneca Tribune, June 20, 1918  
BEANS! BEANS! BEANS!!!!

Laughter for Life in Navy, Though Radio at Present Means Road Work to New Jackie.

Great Lakes, Ill. June 13, 1918.

Dear Sister: Have just come back to barracks from breakfast. We march about a half mile down to the mess hall on the shore of Lake Michigan. After chow the fellows sit along the shore and smoke. Smoking is not allowed in the camp, because it is not completed, has no fire protection, and much trash lies around in which a fire could start easily.

The fellows in the navy are happy go lucky, They raise the devil all the time. Night before last was the quietest night we had yet, because every one was sick from the second shot (inoculation). It would take a shot every day to keep this bunch blue.

I never knew the meaning of navy beans till I got here. We have beans --Hebrews 13-8.

This is a punk camp we are in now (got here yesterday at noon). It has no laundry nor barber shop. And as I have no razor the fuzz on my face is a half foot long.

We have all our equipment but our hammocks, which we will probably get today. We will have an awful row the first night the hammocks are broken in.

Say, have you any mail there? If so send it along, please. I have not received any mail as yet. I am expecting to hear from my radio license. if it comes send it along, so I will have it when I go over to the radio school. A radio man told me yesterday with it I could get an instructorship in the school and my third class rating right off. An instructor is allowed twenty-four hours leave each week and can stay outside the camp to room. He also said at Harvard a radio man who has it will get no drilling or detail work.

I am enrolled in a French class. It is taught by a French Jackie. He is simply teaching us to carry on a conversation in French.

The climate is so much different from ours. It is always foggy in the morning and does not ever get real hot. A person appreciates a sweater under his middy in the morning.

The rookies certainly have a time getting the rookie call out of their hats and bleaching their leggings. Nearly every sailor I have seen yet is nothing but a rookie. But they can tell you everything about the navy. When a rookie gets through telling you how different it is on a ship, ask him, "How long have you been here? Two weeks?" and get the reply \_\_\_\_\_!

There are a good many radio men in our company and because we are not getting into radio work fast enough but after getting work on the roads, we have changed our rating to "roadio".

I guess I will have to get busy and wash me up a suit of white clothes. White does not stay white here, but turns to every color in a few hours.

I do not know our address yet, so will let this letter go awhile till I find out.

(Later) Well, I got the new address; also a hair cut and shave. I found a real rookie barber with a whole barber shop in his suit case. I sat on a barrel while he clipped off all my hair but a little on top to make a pompadour. Then we rigged up a board to lie on while he shaved me. No room for germs in my hair! Will close. Love to all. Ike

My address is E. Thomas Troughton, Co. 30, 8th Battalion, 12th Regiment, Camp Paul Jones, Great Lakes. Illinois.

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Individual-Historical with genealogy \$10.00

Lifetime-Historical \$100.00 per person

Individual-Historical Only \$5.00 per person

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEMAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

02

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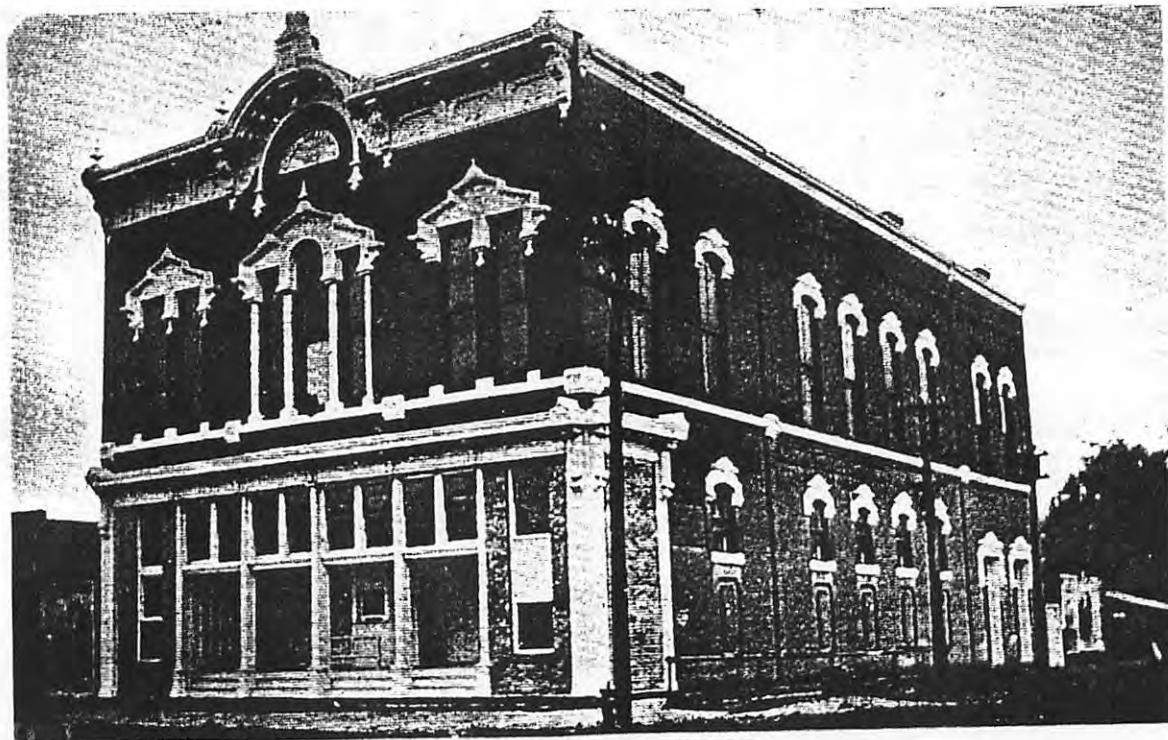
# THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
6th and Fremont  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Volume 75

MAY-JUNE 2002

PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(02)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmitz	336-6596	(04)
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(03)
	William Rettelle	336-6511	(02)
	Carol Kohake	336-3255	(02)
	Ray Hunninghake	336-3790	(02)
	Byron Lear	336-3903	(03)
	Alan Ward	857-3760	(03)
	Pam Davis	336-3928	(03)
	Theresa Hutfiles	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04)
	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819	(04)



SENECA OPERA HOUSE.

This BUILDING IS NOW THE SENECA THEATER  
(POSTCARD FROM S. FELDKAMP)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The membership dues for the Nemaha County Historical Society is from JULY 1 to JULY 1. Dues are \$5.00 per person for the Historical Society and \$10.00 per person for BOTH the Historical Society and the Genealogy Society. To become a member of the Genealogy Society you must include the Historical Society dues, this is a requirement of the by-laws.

News letters are published four times a year, May, August, November and February. We will discontinue the practice of putting an 'expires' date on your mailing label and expect you to remember to pay by JULY 1. You will have a grace period until the August mailing of the paper to mail your dues.

If you are delinquent and want a news letter you missed, we will mail you one on receipt of \$1.00 for each paper.

The following members have already paid their 2002-2003 dues:

Al Buser	Lucille Lierz
Mildred Francis	Dave Stine
Barbara Gallagher	Robert & Grace Strathman
Mary Riley	Margaret Wollsoncroft
Angela Haug	Lorrayne Foltz
Alan Ward	Frank Young

Please send your dues to: Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th & Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538, ATT. Membership Chairman Coupon on back of news letter!

---

Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Membership Chairman

Congregationalists of Seneca built their first church in 1871. The National building society of that denomination furnished \$5,000 towards its erection. 14-1894

The Catholic church of St Benedict will be built at the cost of \$20,000.00. 37-1891

Oneida has a new Methodist church, the cornerstone was laid on Sunday PM. 11-1917

Stephen Lindemann, one of the principle workers in founding the Catholic church in Seneca, died. 10-1911. He came to Seneca in 1869.

The Universalist church held special services in commemoration of their 25th anniversary. The Seneca parish has the honor of being the oldest organization in KS. 7-1892

The Nemaha County Historical Society met May 14, 2002 in the Burger Annex at the museum, Seneca, KS, attending were: Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser, Byron Lear, Richard Schmitz, Bill Rettele, Alan Ward, Ray Hunninghake, Pam Davis, Carol Kohake, Theresa Hutfles and Pauline Esslinger.

Naomi Turner, treasurer, is recuperating from surgery, so Joyce gave her report. She reported an excellent soup day. We also had 2 lunch stands at sales at the Community Building. In all, they netted us a nice profit for our operating fund.

Naomi gave a special THANKS to all the help, soup day, They are too numerous to mention but everyone knows who they are. We appreciate all the contributions these volunteers do to help the museum.

Harry Burger gave memorials for, Gladys Burger, Leslie Burger Brown and Esther Steinmeir McKenzie. Their names will be added to our memorial plaque.

Gene Visser brought some Mulberry and Maple Grove Bible school report books from the early 1900's. Some were C.F. Hill's ledgers. They were donated by Jack McKee, Wetmore.

Richard Schmitz and Alan Ward were appointed to inquire about a project to see if it was acceptable. The report will be given at the next meeting.

Seneca Public High School alumni will be at the museum from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, May 25 for registration. The museum will be open to the public also, so if you wish to visit the museum or visit the alumni, 'one on down'! Everyone is welcome.

The museum will be open for the summer the 1st of June. The schedule will be announced later.

The re-organization meeting will be June 4, at 7 pm at the museum for all the board members.

The Annual meeting will be Sunday, June 2, at 6:30 pm at Valentino's. Reservations are not needed as it will be from the buffet. Everyone is welcome.

---

The first to say 'Nemaha' may have been Otoe Indians.  
'Nemaha' means 'the water of cultivation'. by Geol A. Root,  
curator of archives of the KS State Historical Society. 1937

Walter Fuller discovered on the back of an old picture of Andersonville prison, a picture of an old map of Nemaha and Brown County. Also early day pictures of the Seneca court house, the school house, the old Methodist church and other buildings. 59-1937

The Seneca Tribune, September 5, 1918  
BEFORE GOING OVER

Kelly Boy's Account of Trip From Camp Dodge, Iowa, to Embarkation Camp on Long Island.

"Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, August 11, 1918.

Dear Mother,

Well we are here at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York. We got out here to the camp last night about 12 o'clock. Everybody was feeling fine with the exception of two fellows who were sick. One had the measles, the other throat trouble.

We had a fine trip. Everyone seemed to have a fine time.

This is quite different from Camp Dodge. We are living in tents here, eight men to a tent. But our kitchen is a small wooden building. I guess we won't be here very long from what they tell us. Of course, you never can tell.

Our trip--I will attempt to tell you a few things about it. It was too great to tell very much, besides we saw so much I can't think of all now. We went through Chicago, for one important place, went under the St. Charles river on the Canadian line and came out on the Canadian side. Canada seemed to be a fine place--they have such beautiful trees up through Michigan and southern Canada. We went through Niagara Falls and there we were marched out to see the falls. It was after night but they had lights flashed on the falls so we could see as good as day. They are certainly a wonderful sight. We went through the city of Buffalo, also. We traveled through the Allegheny mountains and took a swim in the Susquehanna river. It is a beautiful river clear as can be. Then we came to New York City, Jersey City and after we hit Newark, New Jersey, it was just one continuation of city. In all the big towns they blew the whistles and hallooed until you would have thought the world was being blown up. When we got to New York, we got off the train and marched a little way and onto a boat. We were on the boat an hour or more coming to Long Island across East River, which divides New York from Long Island. Went under Brooklyn Bridge, which is one of the seven wonders of the world, and I can say it is a wonderful thing. After we got to Long Island we took a train and rode quite a while then we marched to the camp.

We can't see the ocean from here but we are only four miles from it and I intend to go out there today if we are allowed to leave. We have a Y. M. C. A. here in a big tent and there is a piano and victrola and everything same as any Y.

They may give each man a chance to go over to New York City before they go over. So I suppose I will get to see more of the city.

The people at the New York station where we unloaded told out top sergeant that we were the peppiest and happiest bunch that ever struck there. We were all singing and having a fine time and I guess we must have made a mighty good showing because you know lots of soldiers come into New York. They say the 349th Infantry, that Crandall and that bunch were in, have already gone over. The Red Cross ladies in New York gave us hot coffee and sandwiches last night at the depot.

We had inspection this morning for lice and everything imaginable. I will close now. Am well and feeling fine.

Your loving son, Parley Dennis, Co. A. 339 M.G. Bn. Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, American E.F. via N.Y. (To Mrs Mary Dennis, Kelly)

Since the early 1970's, Donna Brockish St. Marys, Ks. and Bonnie Feldhausen Frankfort, Ks. have been tracing their family trees. They had a common connection, as brothers had married sisters, so there wasn't just one line they could work on but several, as the research progressed. Thomas Hale married Jessie Colton and Robert Hale married Bessie Colton. Thomas and Robert were the sons of Benjamin M. Hale and Sophia Jane Mitchell Hale. Benjamin was born Aug. 9, 1825 in Virginia the son of Lewis and Celia White Hale. June 24, 1845 Benjamin Hale married Sophia Jane Mitchell, the daughter of William and Mary Magdalene LeMay Mitchell in Tn. To this union was born 10 children, all children were born near Ooltwah, Bradley Co., Tn. Dec. 17, 1861 Benjamin Hale enlisted in the Civil War, Co. D 36 Tennessee Inf. And since the confederate records are not very good, we don't know when he was mustered out. After the war Benjamin and Sophia moved their family to Decatur Macon Co., Ill. about 1868. The oldest son William who was married stayed in Tennessee, the other 9 children moved with them. The year they moved to Kansas is not known, but the first time Benjamin was found he was listed under U.S. Indian Agencies as a blacksmith 1877-1879. Benjamin later became the postmaster at Comet, Kansas, about 1880. Benjamin died April 18, 1896 and wife Sophia died April 26, 1892, both are buried at the Capioma cemetery Nemaha Co., Kansas. Two of their children are buried at the Capioma cemetery, Edward and Maggie Hale Sawyer. Edward born July 15, 1860-died April 26, 1882, Maggie was born Aug. 30, 1855-died March 17, 1878. Maggie was married to Samuel H. Sawyer, and she died of childbirth fever. When we found the obituary on Benjamin and Sophia, stating that they were buried in the Capioma cemetery, that meant an instant trip to visit their graves, only to find there wasn't a tombstone for either of them. Years passed and more research was done on the Hale line to find that the ggrandfather of Benjamin had died in 1802 and a hundred years later, the descendants donated money to have a tombstone erected in 1902. Since Benjamin was my ggrandfather, I thought it would neat to have a stone erected for him, as the hundred years were near. I contacted some relatives and found there wasn't a lot of interest. Aug. 9, 2001 I contacted Kyle Erickson the commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) Camp Col's Lewis & Harrison #1854 and he got the ball rolling for me. Benjamin was eligible for a veterans stone. Kyle sent me some papers to fill out and he got it ordered. When the tombstone arrived, Commander Erickson called and said that the Sons of Confederate Veterans would go to the Capioma cemetery and set it for us. Finally Benjamin Hale will have a tombstone for his final resting place. Thank you, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The above article was written by Donna Brockish about her family and their quest for their great great grandfather. As he was a Confederate Veteran he was entitled to a tombstone. It was erected, and a group of SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans), relatives and friends met at the Capioma cemetery for the dedication ceremony on May 4, 2002.

Submitted by Mary Steinlage

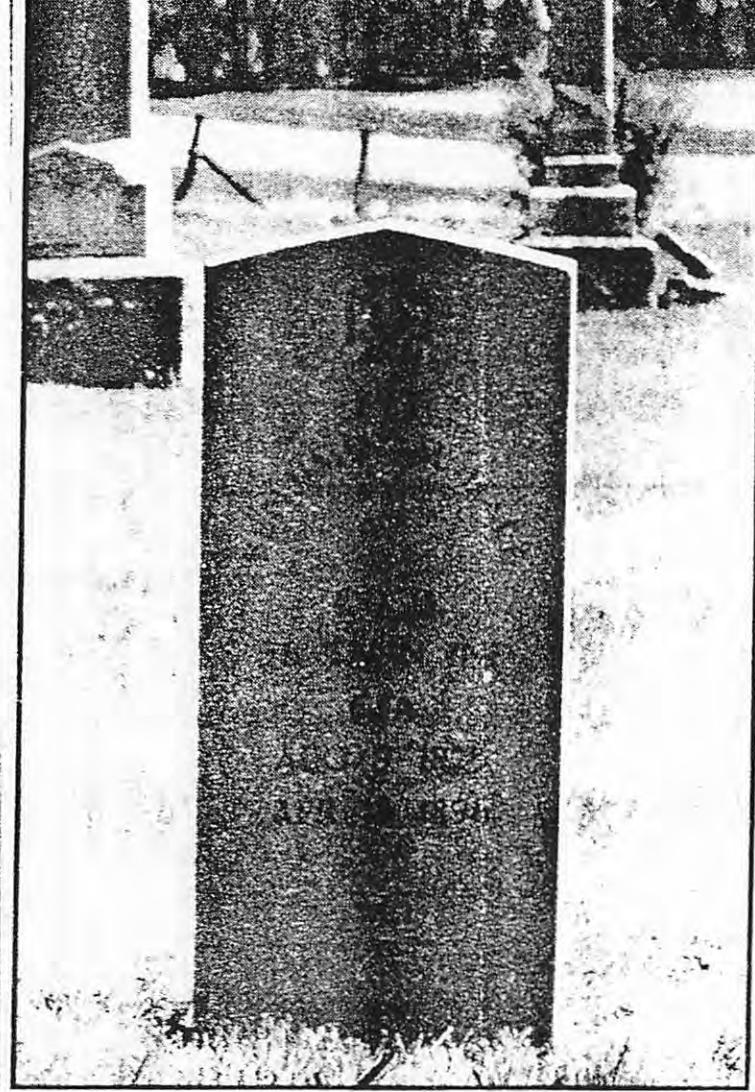


Descendants of Benjamin Hale gathered on Saturday, May 4 for a memorial service and dedication of a monument at Capioma Cemetery south of Sabetha. Hale was a Confederate soldier the Civil War. Hale's grave at the cemetery had been unmarked since his death in 1896.

*Photo by Dave Christensen*



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This marker at Capioma Cemetery designates the grave of a former Confederate soldier, Benjamin Hale. Descendents invested years of research to find where Hale was buried.

*Photo by Dave Christensen*

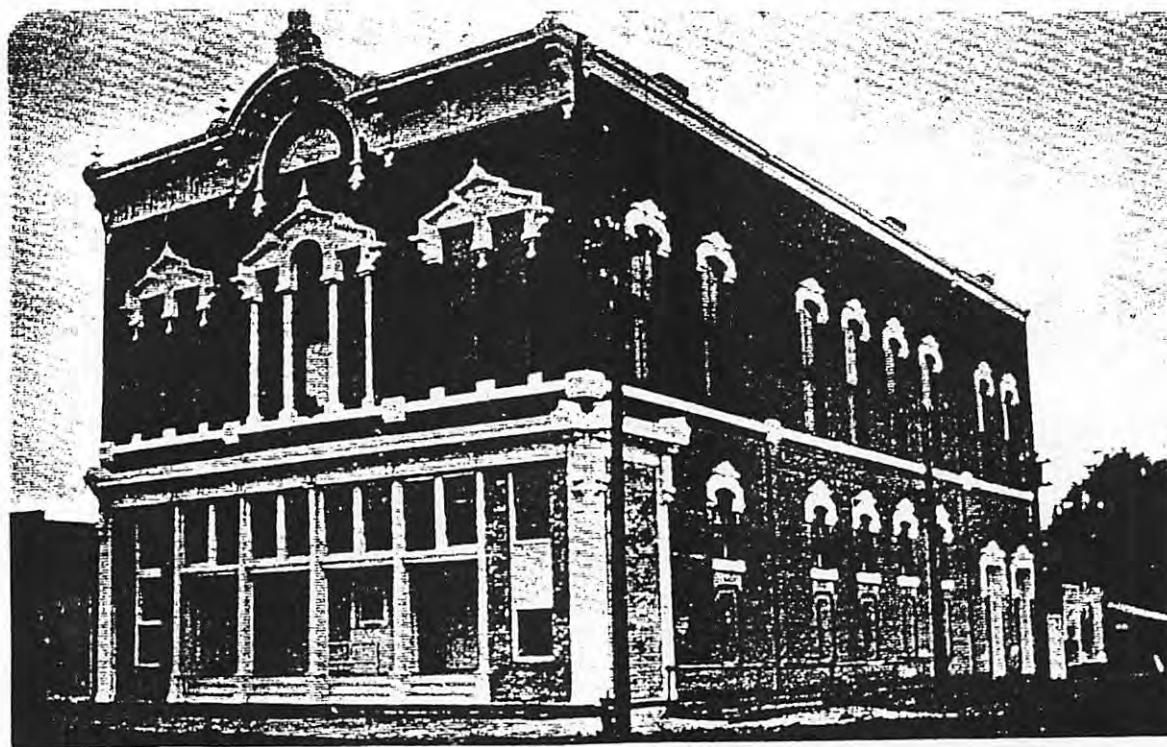
PRINTED IN  
SABETHA STAR 14 MAY 2002

# THE PIONEER PRESS

Published quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.,  
515 Main Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Volume 75

		MAY-JUNE 2002
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	Eugene Visser	868-2398 (04)
	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819 (04)



SENECA OPERA HOUSE.

This BUILDING IS NOW THE SENECA THEATER  
(POSTCARD FROM S. FELDKAMP)

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

The membership dues for the Nemaha County Historical Society is from JULY 1 to JULY 1. Dues are \$5.00 per person for the Historical Society and \$10.00 per person for BOTH the Historical Society and the Genealogy Society. To become a member of the Genealogy Society you must include the Historical Society dues, this is a requirement of the by-laws.

News letters are published four times a year, May, August, November and February. We will discontinue the practice of putting an 'expires' date on your mailing label and expect you to remember to pay by JULY 1. You will have a grace period until the August mailing of the paper to mail your dues.

If you are delinquent and want a news letter you missed, we will mail you one on receipt of \$1.00 for each paper.

The following members have already paid their 2002-2003 dues:

Al Buser	Lucille Lierz
Mildred Francis	Dave Stine
Barbara Gallagher	Robert & Grace Strathman
Mary Riley	Margaret Wollsoncroft
Angela Haug	Lorrayne Foltz
Alan Ward	Frank Young

Please send your dues to: Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th & Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538, ATT. Membership Chairman Coupon on back of news letter!

---

Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Membership Chairman

---

Congregationalists of Seneca built their first church in 1871. The National building society of that denomination furnished \$5,000 towards its erection. 14-1894

The Catholic church of St Benedict will be built at the cost of \$20,000.00. 37-1891

Oneida has a new Methodist church, the cornerstone was laid on Sunday PM. 11-1917

Stephen Lindemann, one of the principle workers in founding the Catholic church in Seneca, died. 10-1911. He came to Seneca in 1869.

The Universalist church held special services in commemoration of their 25th anniversary. The Seneca parish has the honor of being the oldest organization in KS. 7-1892

The Seneca Tribune, September 5, 1918

BEFORE GOING OVER

Kelly Boy's Account of Trip From Camp Dodge, Iowa, to Embarkation Camp o  
Long Island.

"Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, August 11, 1918.

Dear Mother,

Well we are here at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York. We got out here to the camp last night about 12 o'clock. Everybody was feeling fine with the exception of two fellows who were sick. One had the measles, the other throat trouble.

We had a fine trip. Everyone seemed to have a fine time.

This is quite different from Camp Dodge. We are living in tents here, eight men to a tent. But our kitchen is a small wooden building. I guess we won't be here very long from what they tell us. Of course, you never can tell.

Our trip--I will attempt to tell you a few things about it. It was too great to tell very much, besides we saw so much I can't think of all now. We went through Chicago, for one important place, went under the St. Charles river on the Canadian line and came out on the Canadian side. Canada seemed to be a fine place--they have such beautiful trees up through Michigan and southern Canada. We went through Niagara Falls and there we were marched out to see the falls. It was after night but they had lights flashed on the falls so we could see as good as day. They are certainly a wonderful sight. We went through the city of Buffalo, also. We traveled through the Allegheny mountains and took a swim in the Susquehanna river. It is a beautiful river clear as can be. Then we came to New York City, Jersey City, and after we hit Newark, New Jersey, it was just one continuation of city. In all the big towns they blew the whistles and hallooed until you would have thought the world was being blown up. When we got to New York, we got off the train and marched a little way and onto a boat. We were on the boat an hour or more coming to Long Island across East River, which divides New York from Long Island. Went under Brooklyn Bridge, which is one of the seven wonders of the world, and I can say it is a wonderful thing. After we got to Long Island we took a train and rode quite a while then we marched to the camp.

We can't see the ocean from here but we are only four miles from it and I intend to go out there today if we are allowed to leave. We have a Y. M. C. A. here in a big tent and there is a piano and victrola and everything same as any Y.

They may give each man a chance to go over to New York City before they go over. So I suppose I will get to see more of the city.

The people at the New York station where we unloaded told out top sergeant that we were the peppiest and happiest bunch that ever struck there. We were all singing and having a fine time and I guess we must have made a mighty good showing because you know lots of soldiers come into New York. They say the 349th Infantry, that Crandall and that bunch were in, have already gone over. The Red Cross ladies in New York gave us hot coffee and sandwiches last night at the depot.

We had inspection this morning for lice and everything imaginable. I will close now. Am well and feeling fine.

Your loving son, Parley Dennis, Co. A. 339 M.G. Bn. Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, American E.F. via N.Y. (To Mrs Mary Dennis, Kelly)

The Nemaha County Historical Society met May 14, 2002 in the Burger Annex at the museum, Seneca, KS, attending were: Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser, Byron Lear, Richard Schmitz, Bill Rettele, Alan Ward, Ray Hunninghake, Pam Davis, Carol Kohake, Theresa Hutfles and Pauline Esslinger.

Naomi Turner, treasurer, is recuperating from surgery, so Joyce gave her report. She reported an excellent soup day. We also had 2 lunch stands at sales at the Community Building. In all, they netted us a nice profit for our operating fund.

Naomi gave a special THANKS to all the help, soup day, They are too numerous to mention but everyone knows who they are. We appreciate all the contributions these volunteers do to help the museum.

Harry Burger gave memorials for, Gladys Burger, Leslie Burger Brown and Esther Steinmeir McKenzie. Their names will be added to our memorial plaque.

Gene Visser brought some Mulberry and Maple Grove Bible school report books from the early 1900's. Some were C.F. Hill's ledgers. They were donated by Jack McKee, Wetmore.

Richard Schmitz and Alan Ward were appointed to inquire about a project to see if it was acceptable. The report will be given at the next meeting.

Seneca Public High School alumni will be at the museum from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday, May 25 for registration. The museum will be open to the public also, so if you wish to visit the museum or visit the alumni, 'one on down'! Everyone is welcome.

The museum will be open for the summer the 1st of June. The schedule will be announced later.

The re-organization meeting will be June 4, at 7 pm at the museum for all the board members.

The Annual meeting will be Sunday, June 2, at 6:30 pm at Valentino's. Reservations are not needed as it will be from the buffet. Everyone is welcome.

---

The first to say 'Nemaha' may have been Otoe Indians.  
'Nemaha' means 'the water of cultivation'. by Geol A. Root,  
curator of archives of the KS State Historical Society. 1937

Walter Fuller discovered on the back of an old picture of Andersonville prison, a picture of an old map of Nemaha and Brown County. Also early day pictures of the Seneca court house, the school house, the old Methodist church and other buildings. 59-1937

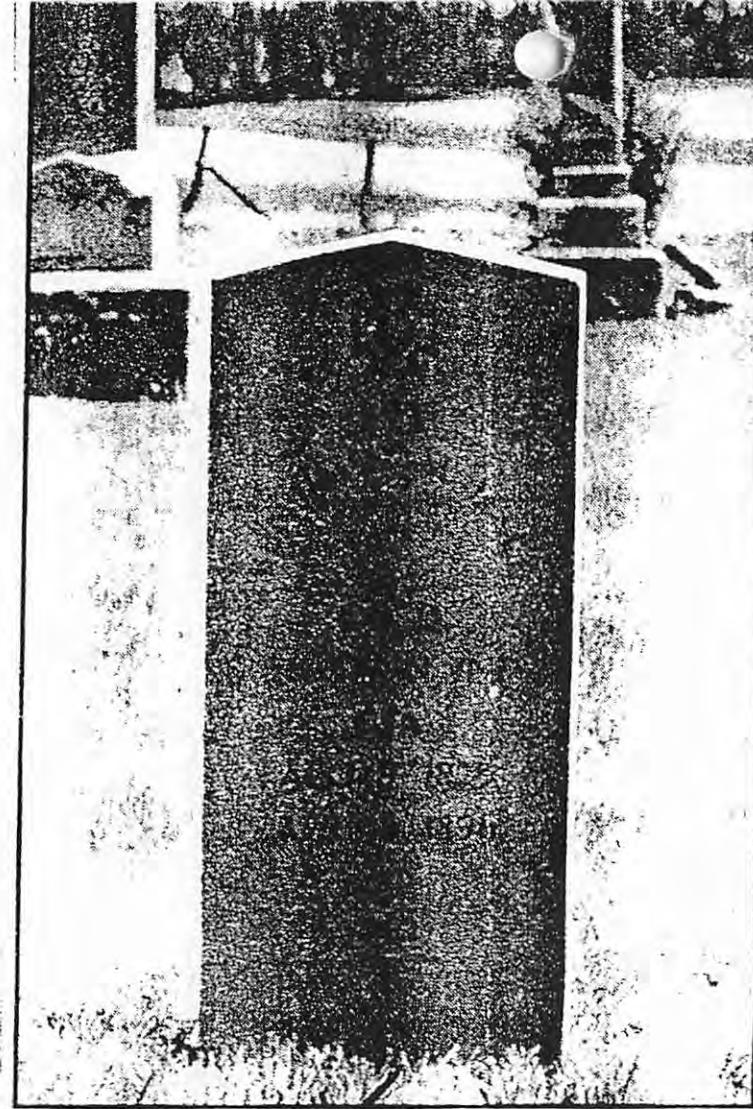


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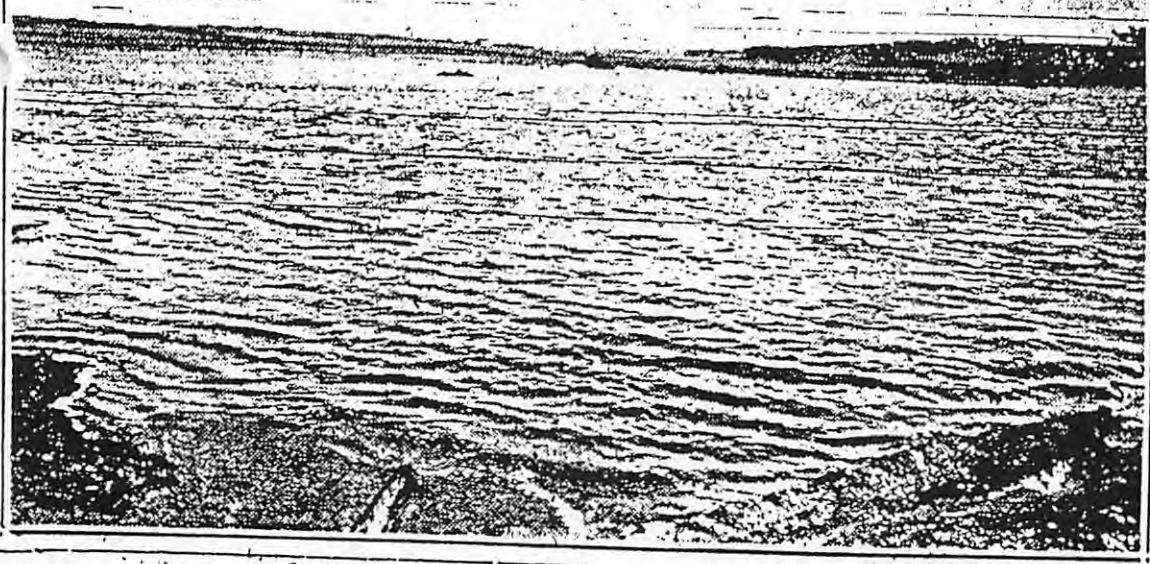
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Submitted by Mary Steinlage

## A Temporary Lake Forms Back of the Dike

In order to keep floods out of the project and to supply water for building of the dam, a dike was constructed. This resulted in the temporary lake shown in this picture. Thousands of ducks and geese have been resting and feeding there on their spring flight.

COURIER TRIB  
1936-



## CCC Boys Quartered Here for Rest and Study

The picture below is a view of the buildings of CCC Co. 2735, looking straight east. Flag-stone walks and other landscaping have contributed to the general appearance of the grounds. The building in the center background is the company office.



Now THE LAKE IS BEING RESTORED!

REMEMBER WHEN?

02

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

03

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Seneca, KS 66538

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VOLUME 76

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	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819	(04)

## NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2002

6th & Nemaha  
Seneca, KS

There will be a 2 day Open House at the Museum October 5 & 6, in conjunction with Seneca's Flea Market.

Saturday, we will be at the Community Building with the lunch stand AND the Museum WILL BE OPEN, also. We will need volunteers at both places that day. SUNDAY, the Museum will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM for viewing, and there will be the usual acivities. We will need volunteers that day, also!!

SATURDAY will be the busiest day, so we will need more help, to move supplies to the Community Building, etc. If you can help, call Joyce Olberding or Naomi Turner.

The PIE Lady will be calling for pies for those days!!

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It hasn't rained in Kansas this summer enough to mention, but it has poured dues and new memberships into the Historical Society lately. Membership renewals from the following have been received since the May newsletter:

Donald Moss	Mary Jo Burges
Clarence and Lillian Engelken	Carol and Jim Kohake
Mary Steinlage	Lester and Lola Droege
Richard Schmitz	Harold and Lela Schooler
Stan and Cindy Murphy	Dorothy Pearl Murphy
Albert and Ellen Winkler	Mamie Beyreis
Joyce and Eldon Olberding	Thomas and Jody Boeding
Helen Foltz	Claude and Betty Reischick
Dorothy Dick	Cyrilla Sudbeck
Theresa and John Hutzles	Naomi Turner
Cecelia Niekamp	Mary Ford
Kimberly Baker	Joseph E. Ford
Marietta Bailey	Dorothy Hunninghake
Mildred Jilka	William Matthews
Earl Hoffman	Donald Childers
Laurel De Lammermore	Donnell Dunn
Rita Floresch	Valda Haug
Gertrude Herda	Maureen Holthaus
Morris Werner	Lee Crowe
Joseph Whitney	Mary Lindeen
Dave Suther	Diane Warrick
Alfred Field	Robert Ackerman Life
Joyce Thomas	Jean Niehues
Maurice Lierz	

The following are new memberships:

Mary Jo Burges	Steven Hawkins
Dorothy A Rooney	Lyle & Marcina Stallbaumer Lives
Dawn Feldkamp	Keith Megill
Lawrence Eisenbarth	Valarian Schmitz Life
Dean & Darlann Rial	Ellen White
Regis Becker	Paul Boeding Life
Don and Shirley Shurman	Mary Hunninghake
George Holthaus	

## IN MEMORIAM

Sympathies are extended to the families and friends of the following who passed away this summer:

Peggy Ford	Richard Gafford
------------	-----------------

## MEMORIALS

A memorial has been given for Helen Gudenkauf by Harry Burger.

The Nooriba County Historical Society board members met at the Museum Annex August 13, 2002. Attending were Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser, Carole Kohake, Naomi Turner, Alan Ward, Richard Schmitz, Theresa Hutfles, Pam Davis, Ray Hunninghake, and Pauline Esslinger.

Joyce opened the meeting. Since there was'nt a quorum at the re-organization meeting in June, the new re-organization list was read by the secretary. Alan made a motion to accept, Carole seconded, motion carried. Pauline read the minutes of the last board meeting, they were approved.

Naomi gave the treasurer's report. She discussed the mailings she sent out, and gave a favorable account. From the 158 letters sent, we gained 11 new members and 4 life members. The board gave permission to continue the mailings. The Board thanks everyone who responded to the letter and joined the society. Remember, the museum is for everyone and we need your support to keep it open and active.

Pam made a motion to cancel A T &T, since we do not make long distance calls. Richard seconded, motion carried.

Carole made a motion to keep the museum open until the open house, Oct 5 & 6, then it will be closed for the winter. Pam seconded, motion carried. The date for the opening in the Spring will be announced later.

The Open House was discussed. It will be 2 days, in conjunction with the city's event that week-end. Two rides have been lined up, and the lunch stands were discussed. Pam made a motion to buy the ice cream this year, Theresa seconded, motion carried.

Joyce discussed the building east of the museum. The meeting was adjourned and the board members went over to inspect it and decide what to do with it.

Re-organization list for 2002 to 2003. PRESIDENT: Joyce Olberding, VICE-PRESIDENT: Richard Schmitz, SECRETARY: Pauline Esslinger, TREASURER: Naomi Turner. SOCIETY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: Courier Tribune, OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY for Society funds: Gold Bank, PUBLIC RELATIONS: Pauline Esslinger, OBITUARY: Mary Steinlage, SCRAPBOOK: Mary Steinlage, CURATOR: Lillian Engelken and Joyce Olberding, PIONEER PRESS EDITOR: Pauline Esslinger, MEMBERSHIP: Dorothy Pearl Murphy. SOUP DAY: March 13, 2003, Naomi Turner, BUILDINGS: Richard Schmitz, LIBRARY/LABELING: Mary Steinlage, HISTORICAL SITES: Board members, LUNCH STAND: Naomi Turner and Pauline Esslinger. All board meetings at the Museum at 7 PM, unless notified otherwise. All dinner meetings at 6:30

PM, at location specified, unless notified. BOARD MEETINGS: August 13, February 4, 2003. May 6, 2003, June 3, 2003, DINNER MEETINGS: September 8, June 1, 2003, locations announced later. OPEN HOUSE: October 5 & 6, 2002.

GOT COMPANY?? BRING THEM FOR A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM, THERE IS SOMETHING TO SEE FOR EVERYONE!!!

The next dinner meeting will be September 8, 2002, in the North room at Valentino's, at 6:30 PM, dinner will be from the menu. EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

## Rose Domer...

growing up years, *Memories From the Heart of Rose: That's the Way it Was*. This book also includes her book of poetry. She said she sold quite a few in a Kansas City bookstore, and the book now is available from Rose.

She plans to have the book printed again, to include her latest

poems. Her most recent poem is about the bluebird pair on her deck railing outside her apartment.

Rose has graciously consented to have her book, *Memories From the Heart of Rose*, published as a serial in *The Sabetha Herald*. Look for chapters in weeks to come.

### America September 11, 2001

Beautiful America has been tarnished  
By the tears of our heartache and pain  
The glory days now have all vanished  
And will never again be the same.  
America's freedom is threatened  
Days are filled with worry and fear  
We just want to reach out to our children  
And draw close all of those we hold dear.  
Our lives changed that day in September  
By the terrorist horrible evil deeds  
We mourn the loss of innocent thousands  
And the heart of America bleeds.  
We saw the world's greatest heroes  
Our hearts almost burst with pride  
Those brave policemen and firemen  
Who tirelessly worked side by side.  
Many of their beloved comrades  
Were lost on that fateful day  
Time only for one last fond farewell  
And to bow down and humbly pray.  
The U.S. flag now waves so proudly  
Where some have lain idle before  
The nation's churches are now overflowing  
So the enemy has lost the war  
For America's grieving people  
Have reached out to their God once more.  
It's time to pray for our finest and bravest  
Who are far away where to win is their goal  
God bless our president and that brave young hero  
Whose final words were LET'S ROLL.

— Rose E. Domer

Courier  
5 April 1935

City library board had complete control over the building and grounds, according to R.M. Emery, Mayor. The controversy arose in an attempt to find a location for a cannon.

1 February 1875

Methodists were holding revival services at the Universalist Church.

15 March 1885

Congregational Church took in 42 members.  
Methodists Church took in 48 since revival.

4 January 1895

Register of Deeds building completed.

A new version of "The Facts of Life" was presented by Jimmy, aged eight. He was assigned by his teacher to write a piece about his origin. Seeking cooperation, he questioned his mother: "Mom, where did Grandmother come from?"

"The stork brought Grandmother, darling."

"Well, where did you come from?" pursued Jimmy.

"The stork brought me, too."

"And me too?"

"And you too, dear."

Resignedly Jimmy wrote the lead for his composition:

"There have been no natural births in our family for three generations."

Reprint from the Sabetha Herald, August 2002

The Domer's were former members of the Nemaha County Historical Society. Bob was a Board member for many years and both were active in the Society.

## Domer to present poem at D.C. gathering

By Patty Locher  
Sabetha Herald Staff

2002 Poet of the Year nominee Rose E. Domer of Sabetha is traveling to Washington, D.C., this week to read her nominated poem, "America September 11, 2001," at the International Society of Poetry convention at the Hyatt-Regency. Her son Dennis will travel from Kentucky and meet her at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Rose, a resident of the Apostolic Christian complex's West Village since 1996, recently was notified that the society had nominated her for 2002 Poet of the Year for her poem.

She previously had received a silver bowl inscribed with the words "The International Poet of Merit Award," along with a bronze medallion.

Rose said that the competition is not over. She and other nominees will read their poems to a group of poets at the convention; the 2002 Poet of the Year will be determined and announced at the convention.

Rose, now 84, said that when she was in her 40s, while living in Centralia, she was asked to be the District President of the Women's Society of Christian Service. With no formal training after high school, she felt intimidated by such an undertaking. She then was inspired by God to write her first poem, "He Pointed His Finger at Me," and to accept the position. She said she had no training in writing poetry, but that she has been "inspired by God" for all her poems and that hers is a "God-given talent."

Though she was not inspired by a teacher or any other adult specifi-

cally to write poetry, both of her parents as well as her country school teachers always offered encouragement of her efforts in any area of endeavor.

A woman Rose knew at church, a teacher at Sunday School with no children of her own, remains an inspiration. Her first grade teacher, Mattie Blair, who still lives in Leisure Lodge, an independent living community in Centralia, also continues to be an influence to Rose.

Rose was born on a farm about 10 miles southwest of Centralia, the middle daughter of Myrtle and Frank Ward. Her parents were both very hard workers, and the girls were all expected to pitch in and do their chores. It was a hard life, but with the example set by her parents, Rose considered it a good life and has no regrets.

Rose and her husband, Bob ("R.R."), are both Centralia natives, having grown up on farms about 10 miles apart. Though they attended different country schools, both were in the Centralia High School graduating class of 1935. Rose worked in a grocery store after high school. Then after one year of Normal School in Centralia, she taught at country school for the school year 1940-41. When she and Bob married in 1941, she no longer was allowed to teach, in accordance with the rules at that time.

After a few years of farming, Bob began a successful career in banking, for about 50 years in Centralia and Kansas City, while Rose stayed home to raise their four sons. Robin, DVM, is a retired veterinarian in Topeka. Dennis, who has a Ph.D., was a professor of architecture at the University of



PRESENTING HER POEM IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THIS WEEK, Rose Domer of Sabetha will be competing for the International Society of Poetry's title of "2002 Poet of the Year." She and other nominees will be reading their work to the society's convention attendees. Photo by Patty Locher

Kansas for 22 years and now is a professor at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Kenneth is a banker at Spearville. Gary is a computer contractor in Topeka. Rose and Bob have eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

After the boys were grown, Rose

and Bob moved to Kansas City for about 20 years, and for a change of pace, Rose worked at various jobs.

In the '70s while living in Kansas City and soon after her mother died, Rose wrote a book about her

Continued opposite page!

**02**

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**03**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal

Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New

Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

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# THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
6th and Nemaha,  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Volume 80.

February-March 2004

PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334	(05)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmidt	336-6546	(04)
TREASURER:	Nacmi Turner	336-2720	(03)
SECRETARY:	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819	(04)
	Carol Kohake	336-3255	(05)
	Ray Hunnighake	336-3790	(05)
	Byron Lear	336-3903	(03)
	Mary A. York	336-3165	(03)
	Pam Davis	336-3928	(03)
	Theresa Huffies	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04)
	William Rettele	336-6511	(05)

# SOUUP DAY MARCH 18

NEMAHIA County HISTORICAL Society  
6<sup>th</sup> AND NEMAHIA SENECA, KS  
10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

Chili      Vegetable Beef      Ham & BEAN  
SANDWICHES      Dessert

FREE will OFFERING

The Nemaha County Historical Society held a special board meeting on December 11, 2003. Present were Joyce Olberding, Gene Visser, Teresa Hutzles, Bill Rettele, Lillian Engelken, M. A. York and Naomi Turner.

Darla Ann and Dean Rial reported on the progress to obtain a grant to repair the building. Estimates by Ralph Schiffbauer for repairing porch, windows, doors, etc. is \$38,605.00. The grant request is for \$30,884.00 with the Historical Society responsible for the balance. A motion was made by M.A. York to proceed with the grant application. Second by Gene Visser. All present favored the notion.

The concrete flooring for Annex #2 has been poured. Roberts Construction will proceed with building as weather permits.

There is now a TV in the Burger Annex with 2 videos about Mr Burger and the museum. Come in and watch!

SOUP DAY will be March 18, 2004. Be ready--we will be calling for desserts. Then come out and have soup with us! There will be chili, vegetable beef and ham and bean soup, sandwiches and dessert. We will open at 10:30 AM and close at 1:30 PM.

#### Courier Tribune 1906

Sabetha is becoming alarmed over the number of old maids within her borders and the city council has decided to do something if possible to encourage the matrimonial industry. Someone having figured out charivaris decreases marriages by about 35 per cent, the august city council have before them an ordinance to abolish the practice. Under the ordinance not only those who charivari are liable to a fine for making a noise, but they must pay for all damages done. Prices are very reasonable, however. Some of them run as follows: One shingle off, 50 cents: each additional shingle shot off, 25 cents: window light knocked out, \$2 up according to size of light and quotations of glass trust: old shoes and rubbish thrown into house \$1: instruments of torture left in the yard, 25 cents each: lights shot out, \$5 each. Other items will be added. Once passed and published, this ordinance ought to make Sabetha the Gretna Green of the Missouri Valley. Add provisions for rice, old shoes and trunk tags and Honeymooners will moon on every corner and sucking doves be as thick as divorcees in Sioux Falls. As a business proposition it is immense, to say nothing of the benefit to the home industry.

## **GRANDMA & THE FAMILY TREE**

Wanda gave this as her report at the Kansas State Conference. I read it at our State Conference.  
Several Daughters have requested copies.

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed her of late.  
She's always reading history or jotting down some date.  
She's tracing back the family, we'll all have pedigrees.  
Oh, Grandma got a hobby, she's climbing the family trees.

Poor Grandpa does the cooking now, so he states.  
That worst of all, he has to wash the cups and dinner plates.  
Grandma can't be bothered she's busy as a bee.  
Compiling genealogy for the family tree.

She has not time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.  
No buttons left of Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.  
She's given up her club work, the serial's on TV.  
The only thing she does now days, is climb the family trees.

She goes down to the courthouse and studies ancient lore,  
We know about our forefathers than we ever knew before.  
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze.  
A minor irritation when you're climbing family trees.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far.  
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.  
A worthwhile avocation, to that we all agree.  
A monumental project, to climb the family tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date or name.  
The rich, the poor, the In-between, all sleeping there the same.  
She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze  
That blows above the Fathers of all our family trees.

Sad to relate, the Preacher called and visited for a spell.  
We talked about the Gospel, and other things as well.  
Jacob Climbed the Ladder, Moses built an Ark, Daniel in  
the Lions Den and Jonah and the whale.

But then in Grandma's voice we heard that old familiar ring.  
She told him about the past and soon was plain to see.  
The Preacher, too, was nearly snared by Grandma and the family tree.  
We tried to change the subject, we talked of everything.

Little Miss Moffitt, Old Mother Hubbard, Black Birds  
baked in a pie, Jack and Jill, How the Cow jumped  
over the moon, Little women

Preacher never knew his Grandpa, his mother's was ---Clark.  
He and Grandma talked, and talked, outside it grew quite dark,  
We'd hoped our fears were groundless, but just like some disease,  
Grandma became an addict, she's hooked on family trees.

Our souls were filled with sorrow, our hearts sank with dismay.  
Our ears could scarcely believe the words, We head our Grandma say ---  
It sure is a lucky thing that you came to me.  
I know exactly how it's done. I'll climb your family tree.

June 1906

A half dozen of the G. A. R. "boys" went down to the hall one day last week and raised a flag pole, on which they flung a brand new edition of Old Glory to the breezes. Your real old soldier has two sentiments which are above all others in his breast, home and flag. The old boys might not be able to follow the flag as far as they did in the sixties, but we imagine that they would be limping into line if duty called again, and that when camp was struck they wouldn't be found tenting with the stragglers.

Seneca Tribune, 9 August 1906

The first kiln of brick by the Seneca Shale Brick company is open, and the quality of the material is a glad surprise to the promoters. The superintendent and experienced workmen engaged have reason to feel proud of the result. A splendid lot of sidewalk and street paving brick are in the kiln and some as fine building brick as one could wish for are included in the product of the first lot produced. The making of brick here is no longer an experiment in Seneca, and the probabilities are that it will develop into one of the leading industries in this part of the state. The price per thousand here will make many dollars for those who have sidewalks to build over the price paid a year ago. The freight alone is no small part saved to parties in need of sidewalk brick.

Courier Democrat, 9 August 1906

#### MAKING FIRST-CLASS BRICK

The first Seneca brick were placed on the market this week. The Seneca Shale Brick Company finished burning its first two kilns and they were opened up the middle of the week. They have penetrated far enough into the kiln opened to satisfy themselves that they have brick of a very superior quality. The brick will be divided into three grades, according to hardness, suitable for common building, sidewalk and crossing brick respectively, and are being sold at the yards at \$7.50, \$8 and \$8.50. Advance orders are already being delivered. Naturally there was considerable anxiety among the promoters over this first burning, and they are correspondingly elated over the fine product. The brick are of a beautiful color and ring like a silver dollar. This first burning consisted of two hundred thousand bricks in the two kilns. The Company is already making brick to fill a kiln again, and the two kilns will be operated alternately hereafter.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT and OTHER THOUGHTS

January 1, 1904, we only have 122 members. We encourage you to encourage your friends to join to help us preserve the history of Nemaha county and a way of life as it was in your parents' and grandparents' days. Visit the museum. Attend the dinner and board meetings. Find out what you can do to help. We have rich heritage here that is disappearing as we write this. For instance the railroads. At one time there were trains going east and west, and north and south, several a day each way. Now they only go west and how long will that last?

Your grandparents experienced these things, do you remember them? Barnsdall's "Be Square to Your Engine" little square buildings? How about the Maytag gasoline powered engine that went pop-pop-pop, with the rubber roller wringer that could grab a finger or hand if you weren't careful and the outdoor clothes line and wooden clothes-pins. The automatic clothes drier put an end to Grandma's free work-out sessions each week, reach down-reach up, reach-down, reach-up, many more than the suggested ten times each session. She probably had Melmac dinner ware, silver-plate flat ware and used a wire whip to beat the egg-whites for the cakes she made from scratch. I could go on but you know or have heard how it was in 'the old days'.

In 1913 Ralph Tennal, a newspaper-man from Sabetha, wrote a history of Nemaha County from its beginning to that time. There is almost a century of history since then that can be lost if not recorded before it is forgotten or destroyed. Think about it.

Dorothy Pearl Murphy,  
A Grandmother

### ABOUT THE NEW JAIL.

This article is copied from the August 19, 1909, COURIER DEMOCRAT.

The first attempt to break from the Nemaha Co. jail since the building has been reconstructed was disclosed Sunday when Sheriff made his semi-weekly round of inspection.

It has been his custom, in order to detect any tampering with the bars of the windows to sound them one by one, with a hammer. Under the test one in the northeast corner windows gave way, a chunk of putty made of paint scraped from the cells dropped to the floor showing the bar cut squarely in two. Work had been commenced upon an adjoining bar. Two nights more would have been sufficient to finish the job; a moments work with a length of gas-pipe which they had taken from the bath-room fixtures, as a lever and an opening large enough to permit an escape would have been forced.

Upon being questioned four of the prisoners denied having any part in the scheme, but the fifth, Chester Dunn, colored, admitted that all were concerned in the plot. Dunn says that Scott, colored, played the banjo while the others took their turn at sawing. He claims that a small three-cornered file was the only tool in use but the sheriff seems to think something more effective was employed.

9 August 1906

W. H. Smith is authority for the statement that W. J. Bryan once spent several days in Seneca. That was years ago when Mr. Bryan, as a young lawyer, was looking for a business location in what was then the west. He came to Seneca stayed here a week and strongly considered settling here in the practice of law, but later, and no doubt fortunately for his own interests, located at Lincoln.

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical only @ \$5.00 per person       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical with genealogy @ \$10.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Mary Steinlage  
Route 3, Box 12  
Kelly, KS 66538-9374

2-13-04

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Volume 81

May-June 2004

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	Theresa Hutfles	857-3566	(04)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398	(04))
	William Rettele	336-6511	(05)

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## JUNE DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2004

NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6th & Nemaha

6:30 pm HARRY BURGER ANNEX

## POT LUCK

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD IN A COVERED DISH

DRINKS, DESSERT, & TABLE SERVICE FURNISHED

COME EARLY AND TOUR THE MUSEUM

---

1906 Courier Democrat

We claim to be reasonably law-abiding, but you can bet your summer's wages that if we were twenty-five years younger we would be liable to arrest on the Fourth of July for violating the firecracker ordinance.

The extension to the Harry C.M. Burger Annex is almost done. It is being painted. When it is finished, we will need volunteers to help move the articles to be housed there. Please contact Joyce Olberding for info.

Dorothy Pearl Murphy wants to remind everyone that the yearly dues are coming due June 30. Please send Dorothy your dues as soon as possible.

The Memorial Plaque is filling up, new names appearing are, Alan Ward, Esther Steinmeier McKinzie, Anna Hammes, Frank L. Geary, Blanche Geary and Harry C.M. Burger.

Members passing away since our last news letter are: Harry C.M. Burger and Theda Volz.

We will be electing 4 new board members at the June dinner meeting. The re-organization meeting will be at the museum, July 7, the board will be notified as to time.

Since this is the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Territory, we thought it would be nice to plant a tree on the north side of the museum to mark this event. Joyce is inquiring about the tree and will have it planted before we have our pot-luck dinner on the 23d.

Darla Rial has a letter in the Courier Tribune about the historical society's museum, I will print it for your information.

The museum is now open for the summer, with hostess Diane Rottinghaus in attendance. She is there from 1pm to 4pm during the week. For tours on the week-ends, you need to call Joyce or Lillian Engelken.

We now have a video of Harry Burger that can be viewed on the TV/VCR set in the annex. This is in honor and memory of Harry and all that he has done for the museum.

---

(reprinted from Courier Democrat 1906)

The Sts. Peter and Paul's school closed yesterday, marking the end of the most successful year in its history. Further improvements and additions to the school capacity are contemplated. The parochial school has been the object of Father Thomas' unceasing labors and its remarkable growth and successful work has been largely due to his fostering care. The close of school was celebrated with a picnic and a speaking and musical program out at Koehler's Grove Wednesday, conveyance and substantial dinner being provided for the children.

**Subject:** Humor for the Day

Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, living in Florida, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in. Jacob addresses the man behind the counter:

"Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers "Yes"

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism, scoliosis?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about Viagra?"

5/20/2004

Pharmacist: "Of course."

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, Jaundice?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob says to the pharmacist: "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry."

*Reprinted by request*

REMEMBER WHEN SENECA HAD A.....

(reprint from the 1906 Courier Democrat)

REST ROOM POPULAR

One of the best patronized place on Main street on the Fourth was the Rest Room. Here nearly four hundred registered and there were such crowds part of the day that a great many were unable to leave their names. Nearly all of these were women and children who took advantage of this popular place to attend to their toilets and rest the children who were asleep. Those in charge had a strenuous day, but were repaid in knowing they had benefitted their fellow citizens. The women who care for this room consider it a great success, and hope in the future the business men will feel that it is an indispensable convenience and will help in its future maintenance. Forty-one hundred registered since the first of November.

Courier Tribune  
Wednesday  
June 9, 2004

## Letter to The editor--

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to read in last week's edition (June 2, 2004) of The Courier-Tribune that you noted in the *News Of Years Gone By* that the Nemaha County board let the contract to build the new jail and sheriff's residence (June 6, 1879). Now, 125 years later, on May 19, 2004, the Director of the National Park Service announced that the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence (Museum) has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property, located at 113 North 6<sup>th</sup>, Seneca, now serves as the Nemaha County Historical Society Museum.

Once a property has been listed in the National Register, documentation, in the form of written records and a computerized database called the National Register Information System, becomes part of a national archive of information about the significant historic properties in the United States.

Besides tax credits and incentives, the listing of the property on the National Register of Historic Places will qualify the Jail and Sheriff's Residence for tax incentives and will be eligible for a matching grant from the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund.

Several area properties were recently awarded Heritage Trust Fund grant recommendations. Two sites that the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review recommended was \$33,280.00 for the preservation of the Marion Township Hall in Baileyville, Kansas, and \$90,000.00 for the preservation of the Pottawatomie County Fair Pavilion in Onaga.

The restoration contract process will begin on both projects after project agreements have been signed and HTF grant orientations have been held.

The rarity of the historic resources, both individual buildings and entire complexes in Seneca and surrounding communities provide an excellent opportunity to preserve the county and state's cultural history. Clearly the citizens of Seneca, Nemaha County and surrounding communities are to be commended for the high priority placed on conservation and preservation values. Several local properties are being seriously researched and documented for listing on state and federal historical registries. Planning for the future through historic preservation is an essential public policy for economic development.

Sincerely,  
Darla Swayze Rial  
Historic Research and Grant Writer

DUES ARE

DUE

30 JUNE

2004

Gleaned from Brown Co Newsletter

### Then and Now

Hilma Winner Larkin (80 years old [in 1995])

My dishes are piled high in the sink

The dust in my bedroom would drive you to drink,  
You can't see a thing through my windows, you'll find

I found a small mouse living up in the blinds.

My family eats meals that come out of a can  
There's dust bunnies hiding inside every fan  
Now, what is the reason for all of this mess?

I have an addiction, I have to confess.

I have a disease and there isn't a cure  
It's called "Genealogy" what is the lure?

It's finding the kin that I never have known  
Who knows? Maybe one of them ruled from a throne

I'm searching for ancestors, living and dead  
To get information, I'd stand on my head!

I plod through old graveyards to look for my kin  
With all of these tombstones, where shall I begin?

I go to the Archives and search every tome  
And get so involved I forget to go home.

My family keeps wondering where I can be  
While I keep on looking for my family tree.

But, don't try to cure me, I like the disease  
Don't try to reform me, it won't be a breeze

I'll keep on researching 'til I cease to be  
And then my descendants can research ME.

From "Relatively Speaking" Genealogy Helper, Jan-Feb 1995

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	William Rettele	336-6511	(05)
	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(06)

Official Newspaper: Courier Tribune

Official depositary for society funds: United Trust Bank

#### APPOINTMENTS:

Pioneer Press/Public relations: Pauline Esslinger

Scrapbook: Mary Steinlage

Obituary: Mary Steinlage

Curator: Lillian Engelken

Membership: Dorothy Pearl Murphy

Library/labeling: Mary Steinlage

Building: Byron Lear, Eugene Visser

Lunch stand: Diane Rottinghaus

Historical sites: Board members

#### MEETINGS:

All board meetings at the Museum, 7 PM, unless notifies otherwise.

All dinner meetings at 6:30 PM at location specified, unless notified.

2004:

August board meeting:

OCTOBER 3, OPEN HOUSE

November board meeting:

NOVEMBER 17, SOUP DAY, details later!

2005:

February 8 board meeting:

March 17, SOUP DAY, details later.

May and June meetings will be announced later in newsletter.

**-Heritage Day-**  
**28TH Annual**  
**Open House**

**Nemaha County**  
**Historical Museum**

6th & Nemaha Street

Seneca, Kansas

**BUGGY  
RIDES**

OCT. 3, 2004

10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Chances  
Pot O Gold

**The New  
Burger Annex**

Come join in the fun  
with Glenette on the  
Banjo  
Theresa with her  
guitar

Demonstrations all day  
Soap Making  
Hand Corn Sheller  
Model Steam Engine  
Grindstone  
Oregon -California Trail  
Maps

Come View All the  
Museum Exhibits



**The New Burger Annex II**  
Built through the generosity of the Late  
Harry Burger

THANK YOU!! To all of you who helped in any way, what ever was your part in making our museum one to be proud of in the past and present.

We get wonderful reviews from all walks of life, how nice it is to come in and see what it was actually like and not just a few cases with small items inside.

With a new area thanks to a very special person, we can show off more of what we have. If I name names, I'll miss someone, so I won't.

So, a big THANK YOU to all. EVERYONE come help make our Open House a great one once again, October 3, 2004, from 10AM to 4PM.

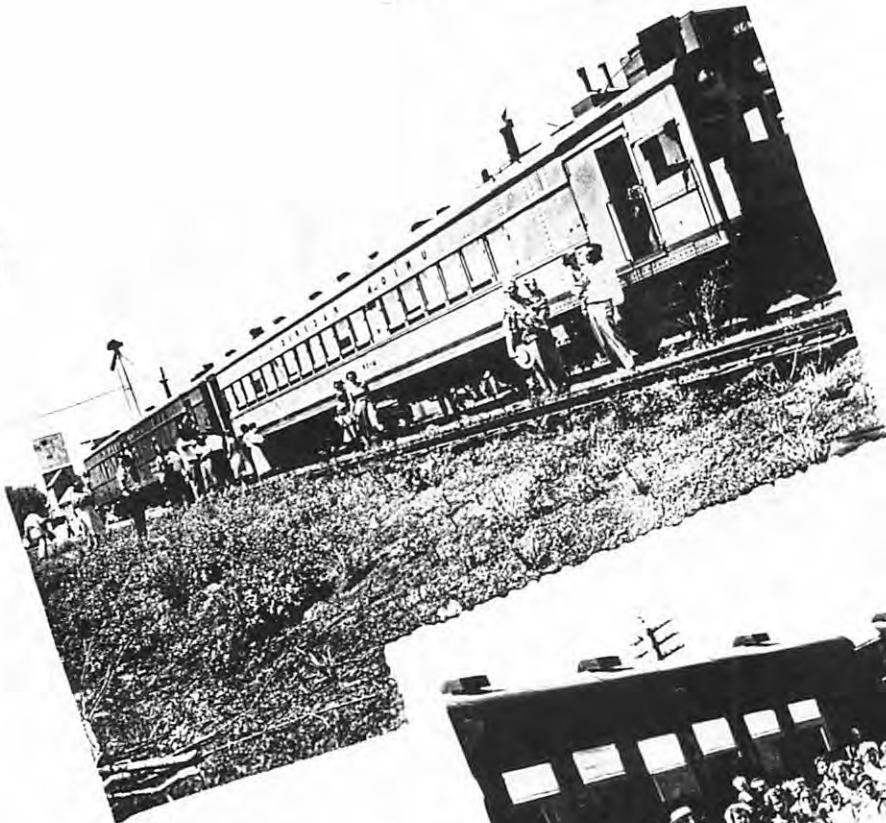
SEE YOU THERE!!!

Joyce Olberding, President

Nemaha County Historical Society,

---

HAVE YOU FORGOT YOUR DUES?? PLEASE SEND THEM ASAP, SO YOU WON'T BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST!! THANK YOU



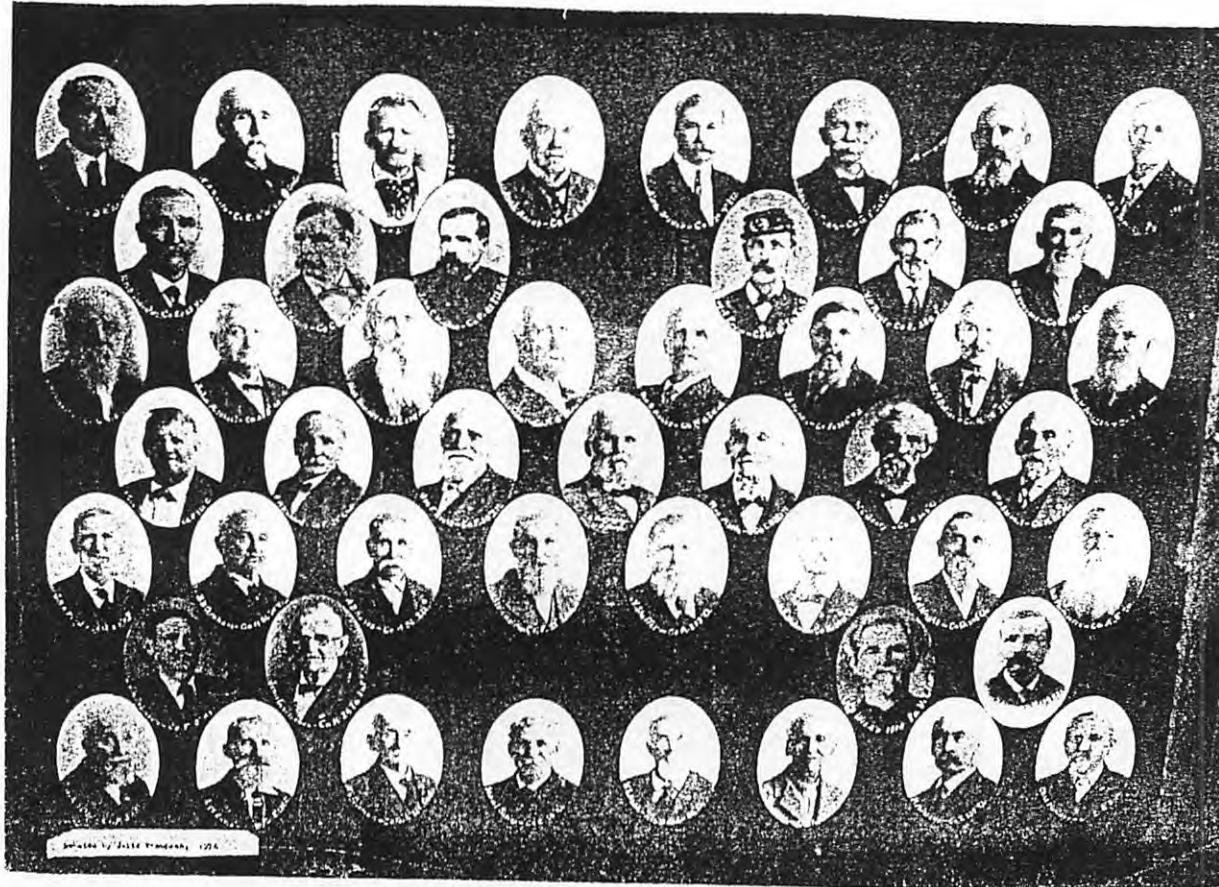
July 27, 1952



The last Union  
Pacific passenger and  
mail train three  
Seneca HS

# G A R

GRAHAM POST NO. 92, DEPT OF  
SENECA, KANSA



1<sup>st</sup> Row: C. W. Johnson, A. A. Raffo, Ambrose Geer, Noah Hayes, Alvin Snyder, Henry Coan, W. H. Daniels, T. N. Riley.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: R. M. Bronaugh, S. J. Baldwin, John C. Hughes, Stewart Ervin, V. N. Peret, W. B. Yeauger.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: D. H. Ferguson, Joshua Mitchell, Chas. Skinner, J. W. Larimer, Van B. Fisher, J. A. Heinen, W. M. Butler, Geo. W. Johnson.

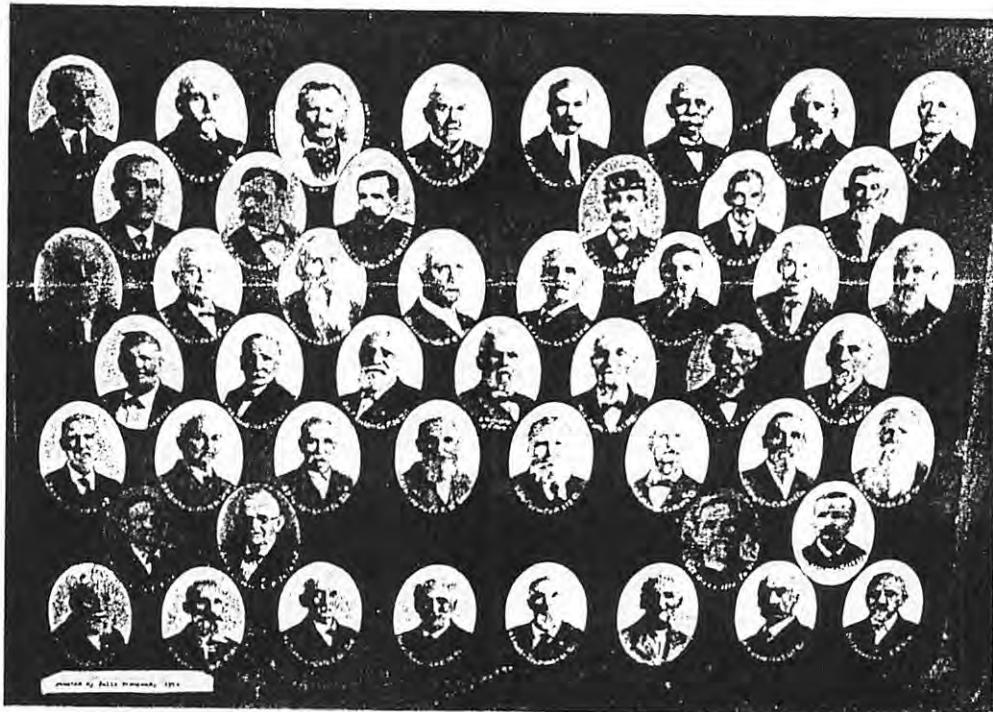
4<sup>th</sup> Row: J. N. Funk, F. M. Richard, Geo. F. Roots, E. R. Murphy, Thos. M. 'ee, W. C. Geary, W. H. Stewart.

5<sup>th</sup> Row: J. H. H. Ford, D. B. Graham, A. B. Hanes, C. H. Steinmeier, V. Shaffer, H. B. Nichols, W. H. Wright, W. H. Thornberry.

6<sup>th</sup> Row: J. W. Robinson, James Countryman, Geo. Wiley, Henry Levick.

7<sup>th</sup> Row: Joseph Guffy, L. M. Davis, N. C. Toloman, Samuel Sheley, W. S. Nash, Joe Parcels, M. Mathews, Chas. Hartner,

G A R  
GRAHAM POST NO. 92, DEPT. OF SENECA, KANSAS



1<sup>st</sup> Row: C. W. Johnson, A. A. Raffo, Ambrose Geer, Noah Hayes, Alvin Snyder, Henry Coan, W. H. Daniels, T. N. Riley.. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: R. M. Bronaugh, S. J. Baldwin, John C. Hughes, Stewart Ervin, V. N. Peret, W. B. Yeauger. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: D. H. Ferguson, Joshua Mitchell, Chas. Skinner, J. W. Larimer, Van B. Fisher, J. A. Heinen, W. M. Butler, Geo. W. Johnson.. 4<sup>th</sup> Row: J. N. Funk, F. M. Richard, Geo. F. Roots, E. R. Murphy, Thos. M 'ee, W. C. Geary, W. H. Stewart. 5<sup>th</sup> Row: J. H. H. Ford, D. B. Graham, A. B. Hanes, C. H. Steinmeier, V. Shaffer, H. B. Nichols, W. H. Wright, W. H. Thornberry. 6<sup>th</sup> Row: J. W. Robinson, James Countryman, Geo. Wiley, Henry Levick. 7<sup>th</sup> Row: Joseph Guffy, L. M. Davis, N. C. Tolman, Samuel Sheley, W. S. Nash, Joe Parcells, M. Mathews. Chas. Hartner,

Numerous requests have been received for individual pictures of the GAR members in the picture that formerly hung in the upstairs hall in the museum but is now with the military exhibit in the annex. That involved taking the picture down from the wall, carefully taking it out of the frame and taking it to the photographers, then carefully reversing the procedure. That (aside from being quite a job in itself for me) is after a while destructive to the fragile old picture. Then we received another request I wailed to my son as I wanted to honor the request but did not want to go through all that rigamarole again. The next time he came to visit he brought his digital camera. He took a picture of the group then zoomed in on sections for the individuals. He made a disc with the group and the individuals, and printed on photo paper about 3 by 5 inches each the group and each individual. Walter has given these to the Historical Society as none of the individuals is our g-g-grandfather. The museum will sell the pictures for \$1.00 each plus \$1.00 for mailing (until postage goes up again) Total \$2.00. Dorothy Pearl Murphy

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you

THE NEMAHA CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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Seneca, KS 66538

# THE PIONEER PRESS

Published Quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
6th and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Volume 83

February-March 2005

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VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmitz	336-4756	(07)
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	William Rettelle	336-6511	(05)
	Naomi Turner	336-2720	(06)

# SOUUPDAY MARCH 17

NEMAHIA County Historical Society

6TH AND NEMAHIA  
SENECA, KANSAS

10:30AM TO 1:30PM

Chili      Vegetable Beef      HAM & BEAN  
~~SANDWICHES~~      Dessert  
FREEWILL OFFERING

# THE PIONEER PRESS

Published Quarterly by Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538      Phone: 785-336-6366  
Issue Dedicated to the Memory of Dave Lauer

## Nemaha County Historical Society Loses A Compassionate Preservationist

David F. Lauer, 73, Seneca, KS, died December 6, 2005, at the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca. His death was due to complications from treatment for cancer.

He was born November 21, 1932, in Seneca, Kansas, the son of Cyril J. and Geneva C. Severin Lauer. He grew up in Seneca and graduated from Sts. Peter & Paul High School in 1950. He served in Korea during the Korean Conflict with the 5th Com Squadron, 315th Air Division as a radio repairman. After attending Donnelly College, he transferred to the University of Minnesota where he graduated in 1958 with a degree in mortuary science. In 1959 he served his apprenticeship in Seneca at Lauer Funeral Home. He lived and worked in

Phoenix before returning to work at Welander-Quist Funeral Home in Minneapolis in 1960.

On May 26, 1962, he married Sally Pape at St. Olaf's Church in Minneapolis. They moved to Seneca in 1966 to take over the family business. As third generation owners of the Lauer Funeral Home, Dave and Sally continued the service begun in 1901 by Dave's grandfather, Philip Lauer.

Dave was a passionate amateur radio operator, photographer, classical/jazz/blues enthusiast, gardener, was active as a charter member of the Historical Society and took all the pictures for the opening of the museum. He often loaned his photographic equipment for historic research and documentation.



DAVID  
LAUER

Survivors are his wife, Sally, a daughter,

Andrea Lauer of Basel, Switzerland; three sons, Chris of Seoul, South Korea, Mike of Tokyo, Japan, and Tim, his wife Heidi, and a granddaughter expected in February of Taipei, Taiwan; a sister, Jean Nyquist of Travelers Rest, SC; two brothers, Don of Albuquerque, NM, Jim of Olathe, KS; a special aunt, Jean Koelzer, age 102, of Seneca; and nieces and nephews.

Volume 86, Issue 3  
February 2006

### Calendar of Events: 2006

- *February 6: 8:45-10:00 a.m. Kansas Teachers of the Year Tour of Museum*
- *February 14: NCHS Board Meeting*
- *March 16: Annual Soup Day*
- *April: Workdays*
- *May: Museum Opens*
- *June 11: Annual Dinner and Meeting*
- *June 27: Reorganization Meeting*

### Inside this issue:

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### NEMAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING SET FOR FEB. 14TH

7:00 P.M.—MUSEUM-HARRY BURGER ANNEX I

### One-Room School Tour

Thirty-eight students in Mrs. Carol Sack's third grade class at Nemaha Valley Elementary toured the museum on Thursday, January 12, 2006. They were particularly interested in the school room which replicates a one-room school of early Nemaha County. Dorothy Murphy, Diane Rottinghaus and Joyce Olberding were at the museum to tour the third graders.

**Kansas State Historic Sites Board of Review** invites you to attend their next meeting in Topeka on February 18, 2006, 9:00 a.m. The Seneca Main Street Historic District will be considered for the National Register of Historic Places. Kansas History Center—6425 SW 6th

## Museum Going-Ons



**FIELD TRIP:** Ten Nemaha County Historical Society administrative board members made a field trip to the Marshall County Museum in Marysville, Kansas on November 17, 2005. Beth Skinner of the Marshall County Historical Society gave an informative and interesting review of their computer system, filing, inventory, marking methods, displays, collections and storage procedures.

**WINTER MUSEUM HOURS:** Several volunteer board members have gathered every Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon to assist tourists and researchers. New accessions have been

9:00 a.m. to noon to assist tourists and researchers. New accessions have been processed, artifacts have been cataloged and photographs scanned for preservation. The phone messages have been returned and routine museum business handled. Naomi Turner and Cecelia Niekamp donated a new coffee pot for the administrative staff.

**LANDSCAPING:** The landscaping committee removed the flag pole and museum sign in preparation for the City's Sixth Street Project. A new sign and flag pole will be installed in the Spring of '06. The two damaged trees will be removed.

**FIELD TRIP:** Ten Nemaha County Historical Society administrative board members made a field trip to the Marshall County

**FINANCE:** The finance committee met in December to review investment possibilities and proceed with investing in a money market/savings account.

**TOURS:** The ten Kansas Teachers of The Year Finalists will tour the Nemaha Historical Museum on February 6, 2006.

**KEN STALLBAUMER** has cut panels for the hanging display frames in Annex II which were donated and hanged by BOB ACKERMAN. Ken also evaluated the Past-Perfect Computer software. KEN AND MILDRED STALLBAUMER have donated a framed, enlarged colored copy of the 1910 Jail and Sheriff's Residence. NAOMI TURNER AND CECELIA NIEKAMP donated a new coffee pot to the museum staff.

**VISITORS** to the museum this winter have been Gladys Parnell, Rossville; Bryon Rilinger, Thailand; Marvin and Carol Rilinger, Virginia; Pat Brock, Illinois; Karen Trail, Axtell and the third graders from Nemaha Valley Elementary.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### Since the last newsletter:

#### New Historical & Genealogy Members:

JACQUELINE BAKER

POWAY, CA 92064

RAYMOND THIEME

SABETHA, KS 66534

#### New Historical Society Life members:

DOROTHY & ROY HEIMAN

SENECA, KS 66538

### Historical Society Renewals:

Lee Crowe

John Vorhes

Carol and Jim Kohake '07

Helen Foltz

Dr. Jason/Karen Showman

### Genealogy Renewals:

John Vorhes, The Vorhes Studio

6421 Wiscasset Rd.

Bethesda, Maryland, 20816-2114

Lee Crowe

26119 Fairlane Drive

Sun City, CA 92586-1925

Condolences:

We sadly note the passing of Nemaha County Historical Society members:

David Lauer and David Mee.

David Lauer or David Mee  
Memorials are received at Nemaha County Historical Society, Box 41 Seneca, KS 66538



What Fun They Had In The Old Days!

Courtesy Bryce-Goff Collection

## Museum Acquisitions

### JOHN VORHES,

Bethesda, Maryland, Preservation Book, "Caring For Your Collections"; 1992. His letter expressed concern about the proper preservation of the museum collections and encouraged digital documentation. John is the son of Davidson Vorhes, born in Seneca in 1912, son of John Selley Vorhes, Manager of the Seneca Telephone Company. John Selley Vorhes was the son of Davidson Richard Vorhes, US Marshall of Nemaha County and Sheriff of Seneca in the 1880's. He's the fellow that chained a UP locomotive to the tracks to collect back taxes to the County.

**CECILIA NIEKAMP**, 211 Amador, Seneca: antique fan, thermometer, match books, bottle warmer and thirty-seven 1946-50 magazines.

**MARY JO WHITE**, 502 North 3<sup>rd</sup>, Seneca: glass antique bottles.

**STAN MURPHY**, 202 South 3rd, Seneca, KS.: antique scythe and cross cut saw.

**NEMAHA VALLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**: magazine covers, magazines, glass and aluminum medicine measures.

### KAROLYN JO LEVICK SEELEY,

Sammamish, WA: collection of books, early Seneca photographs of her late father, Thomas E. Levick. Karolyn Jo Seeley's grandfather was Edward R. Levick, Seneca, who married a Hiawatha girl, Nellie Elizabeth Weltmer, in 1918. Edward Levick was Justice of Peace and police Judge in Seneca as well a jeweler and watchmaker at the "Levick Time Shop".

### PEGGY BUEHLER:

Tacoma, WA: 1930 Seneca High School "Tiger" yearbook, class photographs and 1936 Kansas State University Graduation Program.

**BOB STRATHMAN**: Railroad map and 1934 commemorative railroad coin.

Darlaann reported on status of the Heritage Trust Fund grant, for which she needs estimates for repair of the front porch. Richard Schmitz, Museum committee chair, will work with local contractors on cost estimates.

In New Business, President Anita Heiman announced the formation of committees that will meet and make recommendations and set goals. Committee Chairmen are as follows: Library, Mary Steinlage; Publications, Ken Stallbaumer; Museum, Richard Schmitz; Membership, Dorothy Pearl Murphy; and Historical Sites, Lillian Engelken. Each chairman is expected to appoint five members for their committee.

The board approved plans to hire a plumber to install a turn-off valve to the water in front part of the building for the winter. The purchase of an electric heater as approved for use in the front office. Naomi Turner brought up the location and condition of the Museum sign, east of Seneca. It along with some other museum signs will be repaired.

Donations, which included a 1930 Tiger yearbook and KSU commencement program from Peggy Buehler and submitted by M.A. York, and a museum preservation book, "Caring For Your Collections"; donated by John Vorhes of Bethesda, Maryland were reviewed and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn.

—Naomi Turner, Secretary

## Minutes of November Meeting

The Nemaha County Historical Society Board of Directors held their fall meeting on November 8, 2005 at the museum.

The following directors were present: Gene Visser, Richard Schmitz, Anita Heiman, Mary Ann York, Darlaann Rial, Ken Stallbaumer, Jim Yunghans, Byron Lear, Theresa Hutes, and Naomi Turner. Others present were Eldon and Joyce Olberding, Mary Steinlage, Lois Visser, Dean Rial, Diane Rottinghaus, and Cecilia Niekamp.

The meeting was called to order by President, Anita Heiman. The minutes of the September 13th meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Darlaann Rial presented the quarterly financial statement and the treasurer's report of a balance on hand of \$9,215.15. It was suggested that a portion of this money be put in an interest bearing account.

The Kampier Switch Caper was discussed, and it is now in the hands of the proper owners. The October Open House was evaluated. The Country Store will be available next year.

The Kansas Museum Association conference report was given by Dean and Darlaann Rial and Anita Heiman. Recommendations from the Salina conference included: software for computer program, temporary custody vs. Deed of Gift, numbering items, Accession files, Donor Files, Proper storage and exhibition displays.

Dean Rial was elected chairman of the Finance Committee and Richard Schmitz was appointed assistant chairman. The finance committee will handle the transaction, transfer and reinvestment.

The fundraising reports from the Miles Sale and Bergman sale were given. Publicity was discussed with approval given for the United Bank printing of the newsletter. The Administrative Roster was circulated around the table for correct mailing and e-mail addresses.

In Old Business, the City of Seneca's Sixth Street project was discussed. The project will require the flag pole and sign to be removed. The trees have been drastically trimmed and will likely need to be removed. The landscaping committee headed by Jim Yunghans will determine cost estimates and work schedules.

## A Model Prison

The jail and sheriff's residence share such a close proximity, that importance is placed equally between them now, but in 1879, the jail was the impressive feature to the editor of the Seneca Tribune as he describes the new facility in an article of October 1, 1879, headlined, "A Model Prison":

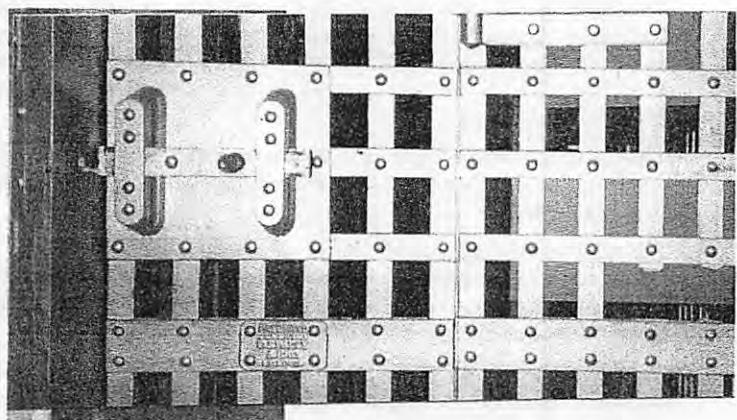
*The main structure is two stories high, the front portion being designed as the jailer's residence, and the rear extension arranged as a prison. The most attractive feature, however, is the construction of the jail. The cells are made on the plan of Pauly's celebrated patient steel-clad jail cells. There are three of the cells, each capable of accommodating four prisoners, and all provided with hammocks and bunks, giving them a look that would seem inviting were the formidable bolts and bars removed. The cells are arranged in a row, with excellent means of ventilation at the rear, while in front is a corridor, separated from the center corridor by open latticework, all made of the famous patented hardened steel that defies files, saws, or cold chisels. The entire top and bottom, all the outer walls of the cells, the rear and the corridor and the partition between the corridor and cells are made of plate work, hardened by the best process known, and are absolutely saw and file-proof. The sanitary arrangements are the most thorough that could be desired, the lattice work and the foul air ducts affording ample ventilation, white water closets, water-tank, pump, hose supply pipe, soil-pipe, etc., enable the jailer to always keep his prison clean.*

Prior to 1860, Nemaha County rarely needed a jail. The few prisoners that Nemaha County detained were lodged in various places, usually under guard, waiting on the tedious delays of the law. The first attempt at a jail in 1861 failed miserably as the twenty foot by thirty foot stone jail allowed tenants to escape easily. The County Commissioners put the proposition of a new jail on the ballot in the 1878 election. Once approved, Seneca accepted a bid from P.J. Pauley & Brothers, St. Louis, Missouri, through their agent, C.L. Wundt and Company of Des Moines, Iowa, to build the jail and residence for \$9,943. P.J. Pauley & Brothers were known to have a respectable reputation for building the perfect jail. A.W. Burnett, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners supervised the building of the jail. Elbert Dumont, Seneca builder, was the local contractor. The October 6, 1879 minutes of the Board of Commissioners lists a check for \$9,943, payable to P.J. Pauley & Brothers.

The original jail was only one-story and paved with brick laid in two inches of sand. All the floors, ceilings and partition walls in the jail cells were, and remain, 3/16-inch thick jail

plate. The lathing and lattice sections were made of the patent hardened steel bars of two by 3/8 inches. Each cell had four twenty-eight inch wide hammocks, hung from angle irons set in the ceilings and iron loops on the sides of the cells. Each cell was six and half feet wide, eight feet deep and seven feet high, opening into a five-foot wide corridor. There was a privy and a sink in the rear of the corridor and a water tank outside the corridor. The cells, doors, locks and corridors are P.J. Pauley of St. Louis, Missouri, patented equipment.

The building was used until 1905 when deterioration of the floors of the jail began to raise concerns, complaints and jail-breakouts. Some escaped through the roof. One prisoner succeeded in making his escape by walking out the brick wall. The Nemaha County Commissioners accepted the bid from Shaul & Assenmacher on June 5, 1907 to renovate the building for \$9,851. A new second floor was added to the jail section with concrete floors and windows mirroring the first floor windows. The new, second floor jail addition added an exercise room and two more steel clad, maximum-security P.J. Pauley cells. Since the foundation of the jail needed restoration, the first floor jail building was enlarged by twenty feet and rearranged with a utility room and the original three P.J. Pauley cells, steel floors repaired.



Jail Cells

Courtesy: [www.seneca-ks.com](http://www.seneca-ks.com)

In 1955, the Nemaha County Commissioners decided that cracks in the brick exterior were created by the weight on the tower and removed the cupola. In 1977, the Nemaha County Commissioners moved the jail facilities to another location to meet new requirements for jail facilities. The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. purchased the building in 1978 for a museum.

## Settling Nemaha County

Nemaha County Historical Society Photograph Preservation Project Proposal to be addressed

The Nemaha Co. Historical Society Board will address a proposal for a Photograph Preservation Project, "Settling Nemaha County", at their February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The project will be coordinated with the Nemaha County Genealogy Association and funded by the Dave Lauer Memorial and a Kansas Humanities Heritage Grant.

The three year preservation project, entitled *Settling Nemaha County* is in celebration of the county's 150<sup>th</sup> year. During the first phase of the project, NCHS will manage a preservation project of the more than 20,000 photographs scattered throughout the museum and facilitate storage problems.

The preparation stage of the project will begin with the purchase of a new computer and the Past Perfect software. Currently, volunteer teams are using laptops to record the identity and location of photographs within the museum. In June, this nine month project will begin by cataloging, indexing, digitizing to DVD discs, and properly marking and storing the photographs of early settlers, landmarks and buildings in sixteen Nemaha County early settlements: Seneca, St. Benedict, Bern, Bancroft, Albany, Woodlawn, Sabetha, Onieda, Baileyville, Corning, Wetmore, Goff, Centralia, Coal Creek, Neuchatel and Kelly.

The *Settling Nemaha County* photographs collection preservation project will focus on:

- Creation of a collections policy
- Inventory of current collection to determine how it is presented (mounted, loose, album)
- Determine photographic processes, conservation treatment or stabilization needed
- Appraisal of each photograph to determine value and preservation needs
- Catalog the photographs by identification, physical description, date, person who donated, and assigned accession number using *The Revised Nomenclature for Museum Cataloging*.

- A record of each photograph will be cataloged into the computer, using Past Perfect software.
- Each photograph will be digitized and transferred to DVDs discs, allowing printed photographs on request and providing copies in case of a disaster.
- Color copy selected photographs for display and research purposes.
- Original photographs will be placed in clear Archival Grade sleeves for storage in easy accessed boxes.
- Storage boxes will be marked by community/collection numbers and warehoused in research area.
- Create a disaster plan for the collection and store digitized original DVD discs off premises.
- Solicit photographs from public and private collections for permanent acquisition or to copy.
- Train volunteers and librarian on new collections policy, use of the database, proper storage.

Next year, Phase II of *Settling Nemaha County* will be initiated and will include inventory/researching collections of the other artifacts in the museum, focusing on a permanent exhibit on immigration, local history and early Nemaha County cultures. The project will conclude (Phase III) in 2008 with organization of oral histories, resources for teachers and traveling exhibits for loan to county satellite museums in St. Benedict, Bern, Bancroft, Albany, Woodlawn, Sabetha, Onieda, Baileyville, Corning, Wetmore, Goff, Centralia, Coal Creek, Neuchatel and Kelly.

Although the photographs are generally in good condition, most are irreplaceable and are in need of preservation. The photographs are all sizes, some are mounted and others are in community or family collections. The photographs in the museum date from the early years of the county, including prominent citizens, landmarks, buildings, development of the sixteen early towns in the county.

The Administrative Board of the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. will accept and scan early photographs from the early sixteen communities. Inquiries can be made by calling the museum at 336-6366 or mail to PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538.

## Final Exam To pass 8th Grade in 1895

All this to accomplish in FIVE HOURS and no computer to help find the answers.

—Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education? Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895?

This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, Kansas, USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS, and reprinted by the Salina Journal.

### 8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, KS -1895

#### Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph
4. What are the principal parts of a verb?  
Give principal parts of "lie," "play," and "run."
5. Define case; Illustrate each case.
6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

#### Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.

2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per meter?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, Promissory Note, and a Receipt

#### U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
3. Show the territorial growth of the United States. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
4. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
5. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

#### Orthography (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u.' (HUH?)
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.'  
Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling.  
Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

#### Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend? How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
2. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean? Describe the mountains of North America
3. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
4. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
5. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
6. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.



# Nemaha County Historical Society

## Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#  Annual Individual-historical society membership @ \$5.00 per person (H)

#  Annual Individual-historical (\$5) with genealogy society membership (\$5) Total: \$10.00 (HG)

#  Lifetime-Individual-historical society membership @ \$100.00 (L)

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to: Nemaha County Historical Society

PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

In September 2005, the Board of Directors increased membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person per year effective July 1, 2006. A lifetime membership remains \$100. The Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501©(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.



Historical Museum  
Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG  
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Seneca, KS 66538

Dorothy Pearl Murphy  
31 North 3, #4,  
Seneca, KS 6638

2005HG

# NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## THE PIONEER PRESS

Volume 23, Issue 4

May-June

Inside this issue:

### NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED PRESERVATION GRANT

The Kansas Humanities Council has awarded \$3,500 grant funds to the Nemaha County Historical Society's project, "Settling Nemaha County". The inventory & photograph preservation project is in celebration of the county's 150<sup>th</sup> year.

Principal funding for this program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

The Humanities Council award will provide funds for supplies and salaries for two contract employees: a direc-

tor and data entry employee.

The NCHS will match the grant funds with cost share of volunteer hours and facilities.

Preparations for the project began with the purchase of a computer and software.

The system includes computer, scanner/copier/printer, the battery backup system, PastPerfect Software, multimedia/imagine software, bar-code software.

The data entry team will

enter each accession record, catalog and scan a photograph of each artifact into the PastPerfect software.

The scanner resolution will be 19200 dpi, scan resolution optical will be 2400 x 4800 dpi with technology at 48 bit CIS. Each photograph will be digitized at 4800 dpi, saved as a JPEG file, and copied to DVDs discs, allowing for printed photographs and documents to be produced upon request and providing copies in case of a disaster.

By digitizing images with the 5.0 MX camera and downloading the images into the computer software, which will also be backed up to DVDs discs, reference copies can be made and originals stored.



Dave Lauer Memorial funded computer purchase.

### NCHS ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish	Agenda	Business Meeting
Dinner at 6:30p.m.— Harry Burger Annex I Drinks Provided!	Call to Order	Election of Directors
	Invocation	Other Business
	Notice of Meeting Minutes	Presentation of Awards
	Audit Report	Closing
	New Business	

Acknowledgements Acquisitions & Visitors	2
Stein House on Registry of KS Historical Places	3
New Membership Policy Website Location Community Support	4
Dues Received Board Action	5
Seneca Historic Main Street District Approved	6
Prairie Grove School On National Registry	7
Museum Happenings	8
Letter to NCHS	9
Dues Application	10

#### Coming Events:

- May 1: Nemaha County Historical Museum Opens 10—4 p.m.
- Monday—Saturday
- June 13: NCHS Annual Meeting—Dinner 6:30 pm
- June 18: Annual Re-ride of the Pony Express thro Seneca—early morning
- June 27: NCHS Board Re-organizational meeting
- October 1: Annual Heritage Days (Open House)

## Acquisitions



**MARY LYNN REINECKE:** antique metal yardstick promoting Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph, six inch Winterscheidt Grain & Feed Company and Farmers Elevator Co. fans and two twelve inch MFA Insurance fans.

**NAOMI TURNER AND CECILIA NIEKAMP:** Life and Food magazines, GE Iron and newspaper clippings.

**MARLENE K. LACKEY:** Ledger of J.H. Ronnebaum, M.D. (DATED 9-30-1904), Lentz scissors, nursing pouch with tools, 11-07-1905 wedding photo of Dr. J.H. Ronnebaum (b 1-29-1877, d 6-1-1906) & Helen Gertrude Huerter (b 1-22-1881, d 6-18-1970), home on 306 Nemaha Street, Seneca, Kansas.

**BOB ACKERMAN:** computer desk, 14" x 17" picture of President Eisenhower, 78 RPM records-(5) Edward R. Murrow "Chronicles of War 1933-1945", land office transfer record (1855), Seneca Rotary Club 20-yr Souvenir book and 3 piece stereo set..

**ELDON OLBERDING:** for bringing the 17" x 14" township maps of taxing districts & units from the Nemaha County Courthouse to the museum.

**KEN STALLBAUMER :** Six Art Books-*Lascaux Cave Paintings, Purposes of Art, 300 years of American Painting, Art of the Western World* (3 volumes).

**ROB RANIERI:** an ornate vintage, upright piano.

**MARY JANE FLEMING:** two framed scrolls with signatures of Great Britain citizens and officials from the Jim Markley collection. The scrolls were in response to scrolls sent to Queen Elizabeth of England at her Coronation ceremonies as a goodwill gesture from the people of Kansas. Also donated were Federated Women's Club programs: First District (1933), State (1933, 1935) and Seneca (1905, 1913, 1933), a 1926 Annual scholarship fund report and a photograph of early day school room (unidentified).

**WAYNE AND EDIE CHADWICK, Topeka:** photographs of Neuchatal and Concord Schoolhouses, class pictures, Becker Tavern & Uncle Sam's Corner.

**HAZEL HOFFMAN:** History book of the First District VFW Auxiliary and the 1966 dress worn by Hazel at installation as President of the VFW Auxiliary.

**JOLENE HOLTHAUS** of Buggy Days, 509 Main: check writer from Bergman's Grocery in St. Benedict, Kansas and an ironing mangle used by Mrs. Paul Smith to do laundry at the hotel. Mrs Paul Smith was Jack & Tom Graney's sister (Tom was realtor and barber) who lived where George Haug lives today.

**FRANK MILES, Sabatha:** framed picture purchased from the Frank Holthaus estate. The framed 43 inches by 35 inches painting by artist T. Eckembecher is of the KRON PRINZ WILHELM, North German Lloyd S.S. Co.

**DALE NIMZ, Lawrence:** copies of his research of the Seneca Historical Main Street and Sanborn Insurance maps.

**RICHARD D. MILLER** donated antique hardware scales from Kramer Hardware and 1935 Auto Tag.



## NCHS SOUP DAY

Over 210 people attended the annual NCHS Soup Day on March 16 at the Historical Museum. Three kinds of soup, ham salad sandwiches, cornbread, dessert and drinks were served. A freewill offering resulted in \$814.28 proceeds. A special thank-you to those who baked pies, fixed soup, baked cornbread, served food and waited tables.

The Board of Directors of the Pony Express Museum held their quarterly meeting in Annex I of the Museum on March 27, 2006.

The Seneca Tourism and Travel Group toured through the Museum on April 15th. Lillian Engelken and Anita Heiman served as guides. Alicia and Kiera Keegan of Baileyville, Trent Kennedy, Frankfort, and Karen Droege, Seneca, signed the guest book.

## Acknowledgements

**JOHN AND BERNIECE NORDHUS** who loaned 1946 photographs taken of the Rock Walls and Pillars on Bridge 33, Old Nemaha Lake for research project.

**A SPECIAL THANKS** to Anita' Heiman for Bob Winckler's Memorial Donation.

**M.A. YORK;** Harsh family items, Edward Taylor—KU graduation program, Rose Harsh High School graduation program, D.B. Harsh, 1911 Knights Templar program of Easter Services, phone books.

**NANCY NOLTE,** Blue Rapids, stopped by the museum on April 1st, searching for information on specific Pony Express Riders. Mary Jane Fleming was available to help her. Ms. Nolte is assisting the newly founded Blue Rapids Historical Society with the establishment of a museum in Blue Rapids and was interested in the NCHS acquisition process and the PastPerfect software. To subscribe to the BRHS newsletter, send your note of request to brhissoc@yahoo.com.

## VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

Darlene Huerter (Seneca), Gladys Parnell, Cletama Brown, Frances McAssy and Darlene Glassel (Holton) visited the museum on January 25, 2006.

Eight candidates vying for the Kansas Teacher-of-the-Year toured the museum on February 6, 2006. Lillian Engleken and Diane Rottinghaus guided two groups of teachers including our own Betty Peterson. Other candidates taking the tour were Letitia Petitjean, Butler;

Pamela Olson, Haysville; Tanya Priddy, Desoto; Ron Poplau, Kansas City; Betsy Wiens, Topeka; Roxie Peterson, Wamego; and Laurie Mercer, Wichita.

Teachers Janet Heiman and Janelle Glatzak brought sixteen Kindergarten and twenty First Grade students plus nineteen adults from Centralia to tour the museum on May 5, 2006. Anita Heiman, D.P. Murphy and Diane Rottinghaus served as guides.

# STEIN HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

Listed on Kansas Registry of Historic Places

**The Stein House Bed and Breakfast (1918), located at the intersection of Elk and North Seventh Street, was accepted onto the Kansas Historic Registry on August 21, 2004.**

The four-story frame, American Foursquare building with ridge hipped roof of high-pitch, sits on a two-course concrete foundation. Flared, ridge hipped roof dormers of moderate pitch flank the chimney, which rises from the basement through the center of the house. The house is preserved in the original state with the exception of an attached den and two-car garage, which were added in 1984. The original one-car garage built in 1918 stands at the back of the property, behind the western façade of the house. Narrow lap siding covers the exterior of the house. Fish scale wood shingles cover the eastern façade of the third floor.

The hand carved front door is mahogany and flanked by two groupings of unique, leaded and beveled glass windows.

The interior plan of the Stein House follows a narrow, asymmetrical design on the first level and a central hall design on the second level. The third level has been finished dormitory style with oak wood flooring and wainscoting from the Seneca Depot (1884).

Peter and Frances Stein raised four sons and a nephew in the house Henry built.

Peter P. Stein, who built the spacious house was known at the youngest Kansas Banker in his time. He was one of the first officers in the Seneca Knights of Columbus when Council 1769 was chartered. Mr. Stein was instrumental in donations of land, money and time to the establishment of the historical Sts. Peter and Paul complex. He was Seneca City Treasurer, officer in the Knights of Columbus and signed the lease for the first meeting room for

The ornate crossed ceiling beams with electric bulbs at each end, embellished by golden oak wood-work is exhibited in the first floor kitchen, sliding pocket doors of the dining room and living room (parlor). The staircase has an eight sided, carved wood newel post.

Like the rest of the Stein House, the four, second level spacious bedrooms have nine-foot ceilings with wood molding that circle one foot from the ceiling of each room.

The original light fixtures remain extant in five of the nine rooms.

The Stein House has expanded the American Foursquare to four stories with the converted attic and full basement, hipped roof, dormers on all four slopes, and front porch, which extends the full expanse of the front facade. The porch columns coupled with the art glass revealed from hall, living room and dining rooms windows foretells the crisp and clean elegance of the architecture style prior to entering the house. The basic cube-shaped, four-room floor plan is evidenced on each level.

The bathroom fixtures, furnace grates and metal kitchen cabinets remain in the house. The laundry chute runs from the basement to the first floor kitchen and the second floor central hallway.

Henry Bernard Wolthamp, builder of the Stein House, was drawn into the Seneca home building boom of 1910-13. The Seneca Shale Brick Company, an iron foundry, a cement block plant and a sawmill provided a ready source for the construction of new business and houses.

Mr. Wolthamp had learned carpentry from his father, Henry Wolthamp, who emigrated from Germany. Henry was born in Iowa in 1847. He married at age nineteen to Anna Grollmes, age twenty-one, who was born in Germany. Anna's father, Henry, was a wagon-maker and set up manufacturing of the Seneca Wagon Company.

Henry B. and Anna had eight children, all born in Seneca. Henry was known in Seneca as the man who climbed the Sts. Peter and Paul church steeple and repaired the cross when damaged by a tornado in 1896. His obituary says, "He builded, and he builded well."

Henry Wolthamp's sister, Frances, married Peter P. Stein in 1902.

the Knights of Columbus. His life was founded on strict principles of integrity and honor.

Peter P. Stein attended Sts. Peter and Paul, the parochial school in Seneca, and St. Benedict's college in Atchison. His first employment was as a clerk in the general store from 1897 to 1902. In 1902, he became bookkeeper of the National Bank of Seneca and was promoted to cashier in 1907. He held this position until 1912

when he accepted the cashier-ship of the First National Bank of Seneca. He was also an officer of the Seneca State Savings Bank. After fifteen years, he moved to Wichita where he bought an interest in the Sunflower State Bank. At the time of his death from ruptured appendix, he was deputy register of deeds of Sedgwick County, KS. Rosann and Ray Huninghake are the current owners of the Stein House Bed and Breakfast. Rosann is the great, great niece of Peter P. Stein.

NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

113 North Sixth Street, PO Box 41,  
Seneca, KS 66538

Phone: 785-336-2680  
Email:nchs@carsoncomm.com

**Nemaha County Historical Museum Hours**  
**May through September:**  
**10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

We're On The Web:  
[www.seneca-ks.com](http://www.seneca-ks.com)  
or [www.skyways.org/  
orgs/nchs/](http://www.skyways.org/orgs/nchs/)

**NCHS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

**DUE JULY 1, 2007**

*Annual Membership fees of \$5.00 will be accepted through June 30, 2006. The new annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 and individual Lifetime Membership fee of \$200 will become effective on July 1, 2006. The annual membership fee provides a quarterly newsletter, attendance at administrative board meetings and free admission to the museum. Only one newsletter will be mailed after the deadline of July 1, if the annual membership fee expires.*

**New Business Membership**

*A new business membership category will become effective on July 1, 2006 at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites. A framed certificate would be distributed to each business member.*

## COMMUNITY PROVIDES SERVICE TO MUSEUM

### LANDSCAPING

Under the guidance of Board Member James Yunghans, several community volunteers provided free services for landscaping the grounds of the Historical Museum.

Glenn Rusche, installed outside hydrants, Steve Stallbaumer trucked in dirt, Randy Krogman, prepared the soil, and Paul Henry seeded the new grass. Gudenkauf Tree Service cut down three damaged trees and removed the stumps at a discounted fee. Dan Haverkamp provided broadleaf weed extermination and Bill Brannan of Schendel Pest Control gave a termite inspection of the facilities. The NCHS deeply appreciates these donated services.

### LEGAL SERVICES

BILL O'KEEFE, attorney-at-law, donated his services for review of IRS papers, work on Historical Society financial material, review of documents and wrote a letter for reinstating the 501C3 status.

Museum Open.  
Monday—Saturday  
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

NANCY IMHOLTE of "Picture This" provided framing and print photograph preservation.

### MOVING DAY

CORKY & ROSIE STALLBAUMER, DON STRATHMAN, MARK HEIMAN, JEFF WILHELM, AND DENNIS DROGE assisted administrative board members Anita Heiman, Richard Schmitz, Lillian Engelken, Pam and Jerry Davis, Theresa Hutfles, Mary Steinlage, Dean and DariAnn Rial with the moving of three showcases, a piano and arrangement of several displays in the museum on the April 8th "moving day".

### NEW LOCKS

DOUG ACKERMAN, Ackerman Lock and Key, installed new commercial, durable locks to the museum annex facilities.



### Dues since last newsletter:

#### **Historical & Genealogy:**

**Rita Floresch, Seneca**

**Rita Holthaus, Shawnee (2009)**

#### **Historical Society:**

**Evelyn Waters, Seneca**

**Berline Trickel, Seneca**

**Mary & Richard Leighty, Tecumseh**

**Zita & Melvin Bergman, St. Benedict**

**Jean Niehues, Corning**

**Jeff Wilhelm, Seneca (2007)**

**Harold & Lela Schooler, Seneca**

#### **LIFE-Historical Society:**

**Rita Holthaus, Seneca**

**Vern & Mary Heiman, Sun Lakes, AZ**

**Fran & Jane Niehaus, Topeka**

**Bill Love, Seneca**

**Samantha Lauer, Seneca**

**Mary Jane Fleming, Seneca**

**Doug and Sharon Ackerman, Seneca**

#### **IN MEMORY: (Charter Member)**

**Adrianna Schmidt, 1916-2006**

**DARYL E. MURPHY**, Irving, TX is researching a book celebrating Kansas Courthouses. He and his wife spend part of the year at the northwest Reno County 1883 homestead of his great-grandfather.

**JOHN C. ROBERTS**, Chandler, AZ was searching for the obituary of his great-great grandmother Sarah Ann Coe who lived in Nemaha County, died July 14, 1896, and buried in Roots Cemetery. D.P Murphy provided research on his family.

**LAST SOLDIER PROJECT, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**, Old Abe Camp #16, Topeka, KS is looking for the last Union veteran to be buried in Nemaha County and/or die in Nemaha Co. Is Joshua Henry, Sabetha, the Last Civil War Soldier (Gettysburg) from NM CO? More on website ([www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)).

### **February Board Mtg.**

Letha Johnson, Kansas State Historical Society Consultant, was the guest speaker at the Nemaha County Historical Society's Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Museum. Ms. Johnson will serve as consultant for the Society's Kansas Humanities Heritage 2006 Program Grant Project, a photograph preservation project entitled, "Settling Nemaha County". She toured the facilities and made preservation and conservation suggestions to consider in the five-year Nemaha County Historical Museum inventory of documents.

In the regular business meeting, the Board approved the "Settling Nemaha County" preservation project in celebration of the 150th year anniversary, approved a list of museum acquisitions from eighteen donors, and payment of \$3,864.64 for computer equipment.

The Board approved Membership Chairman Dorothy Pearl Murphy's recommendation that the Annual Membership fees of \$5.00 will be accepted through June 30, 2006. The new annual membership fee of \$10.00 and Lifetime membership fee of \$200.00 will become effective on July 1, 2006. The annual membership fee provides a quarterly newsletter, attendance at administrative board meetings and free admission to the museum. Only one newsletter will be mailed after the deadline of July 1, 2006, if the membership fee expires. Dorothy Pearl Murphy reported 209 NCHS members of which there are 35 families and 43 life memberships.

James Yunghans, landscaping chairman, submitted a long-range and short-term landscaping plan for the museum grounds. The board gave approval for the landscaping committee to move ahead with the short-term landscaping plan. The landscaper will present designs for the long-range plan at the next board meeting.

In other business, the board approved the relocation of three pieces of furniture within the museum, developed plans for the food booth at the February 19th auction and made work assignments for the NCHS Annual Soup Day scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2006 in Burger Annex I.

In attendance at the Administrative Board meeting were Anita Heiman, Naomi Turner, DarlAnn Rial, Bryon Lear, Eugene and Lois Visser, James Yunghans, Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Diane Rottinghaus, Mary Steinlage, Lillian Engelken and Cecelia Niekamp.

### **March Board Mtg.**

Mike Plum, Rolling Hills Nursery, Sabetha, was the guest speaker at the Nemaha County Historical Society's Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, March 28th at the Museum. Mr. Plum submitted a three-phase landscaping plan for planting species of the era on the museum grounds. He recommended the location for plants, new flag pole and redesigned sign. Mike Plum will submit cost estimates to the landscaping committee within two weeks.

In the regular business meeting, nineteen administrative board members heard committee reports. James Yunghans, chairman of the landscaping committee, reported on tree removal, dirt work, and security gates on the museum grounds. He asked for and received permission to install a retractable clothesline, remove one current pole and restore "Historical Museum" signs on the outskirts of Seneca.

#### **In other action, the board approved:**

\*A business (corporate) membership category for annual membership fees for \$25.00.

\*A list of museum acquisitions from seven donors,

\*A grant application to the Seneca Travel and Tourism Board in a Joint project with the Pony Express Museum.

\*A sixteen-month contract to Diane Rottinghaus as museum director and a two and an half month contract to Stacey Heinen as data entry employee at \$10 per hour each to fulfill conditions of the Kansas Humanities Heritage 2006 Grant.

\*Opening the Historical Museum on May 1, 2006, for six days a week from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\*Workdays for every Wednesday morning in April and Rearrangement Day for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

\*Memorial plaques orders for Pauline Esslinger, Dave Lauer, Art Strathman and Bob Winkler.

\*A nominating committee of Bill Rettele, Richard Schmitz and Bob Ackerman in preparation for Annual Meeting June 11, 2006.



## SENECA MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT APPROVED

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review approved the nomination of the Seneca Main Street Historic District, Seneca, KS, Nemaha County to the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state register. The listing qualifies the property for certain state-funded financial incentives such as Rehabilitation Tax Credits and qualifies for the Heritage Trust Fund grant program. This property is now protected under the Kansas Historic Preservation Act.

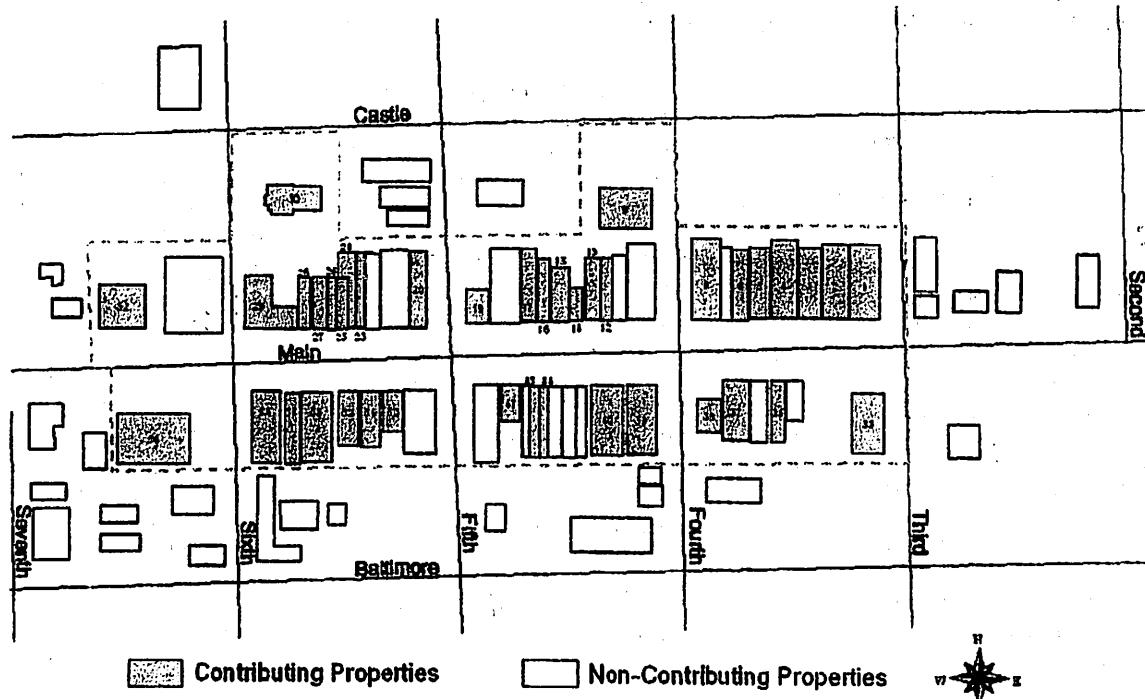
The nomination will now be forwarded to the office of the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. where it will be evaluated by their professional staff. If they concur with the findings of the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, the property will be granted inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Seneca Historic District includes 41 contributing and 15 non-contributing commercial buildings on Main Street between Third and Sixth streets.

The property, three blocks of Seneca Main Street, was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its significance to local history and association with development during the 19th and early 20th century and under Criterion A for its historical architecture and well-preserved commercial district. It is representative of commercial districts throughout the state.

The buildings have identical setbacks, have brick primary material, and the larger buildings anchor ends of each block. The buildings reflect the main stages of Seneca's development: building boom of 1880s and 1890s, 20th century prosperity, depression and World War II architectural styles, Late Victorian, Lake 19th and 20th Century Revivals, and early 20th Century American Movements. Twenty-eight buildings were constructed before 1901, twenty-one buildings were constructed between 1901 and 1950. The brick street paving (ca 1919) is a significant feature of the Main Street District.

This property was researched and submitted by Professional Historic Preservation Specialist, Dale E. Nimz.

### Contributing Properties Seneca Main Street Historic District



## PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOL APPROVED FOR NATIONAL REGISTRY

The Prairie Grove School was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places on March 8, 2006. The National Register is the country's official list of historically significant properties and Nemaha County can feel proud to have a large and growing representation of these tangible links to our past. Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. This property is now protected under the Kansas Historic Preservation Act.

In addition to the prestige of inclusion in the National Register, the property enjoys a number of other potential benefits: It is eligible for a 20% federal investment tax credit if it is rehabilitated for income-producing purposes. The 25% Kansas State Rehabilitation Tax Credit is also available for the rehabilitation of both income and non-income producing properties. The property is now qualified for the heritage Trust Fund grant program. The Kansas State Historical Society also offers free technical advice to owners of National Register properties to help them maintain their properties in a historically accurate manner.

Prairie Grove School was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Historic Schools of Kansas MPS with statewide significance under Criterion A for its historical association with education in rural Nemaha County, Kansas, and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a traditional wood-frame, one room schoolhouse with a Second empire-style, mansard-roof belfry. No single building type in American architecture more vividly represents the communal efforts of the settlers, who donated time, labor and materials to provide places of learning for their children.

The school district was organized in 1872 and was the sixty-fifth school district to be organized in Nemaha County, thus it was numbered 65. In the fall of 1874, after a difficult summer of a grasshopper invasion into the farmlands, the school patrons of the newly formed district decided to have a school for their children. Lizzie Taylor, a seventeen-year-old lady who had come to Seneca with her parents as a small child and lived in a log house, the first built in Seneca, was the first teacher at the first school in District 65. Lizzie Taylor was paid \$25.00 per month, twelve of which she paid to Mrs. Will Allison for her board and room. The first classes were held in a room of the home of Mr. And Mrs. William Robbing, but later in the year, they moved to the home of Mr. And Mrs. Emil Schultz.

The children walked to the school, carrying Bibles, hymn books, almanacs and histories.

As the enrollment increased, the people saw the need for a school building. Gus Allison gave an acre of land to the district for the new school building with the understanding that the land would revert to the Allisons in the event the school closed. The land was accepted by the school board, which included W.S. Johnson, Andrew Taylor and Henry Poppe. The State Official Foundation date was 1875 and the contract for the building was submitted on September 15, 1875. A name was chosen after the small, frame school building was completed that described the vast prairie that spread for miles around the school. Since the school was nestled in a grove of trees, it seemed most fitting to call it "Prairie Grove". Mattie Berger had the honor of being the first teacher to teach in the new schoolhouse. She was paid \$25.00 per month.

By 1885, the boundaries for District 65 had been extended, bringing more students to the schoolhouse. More room was needed in a building that could be heated. In a special election held on July 6, 1885, the school district patrons approved bonded indebtedness for building a bigger schoolhouse. The contractor chosen to build the school was Charles Stewart of Seneca. Landowner Gus Allison assisted Mr. Stewart.

Prairie Grove schoolhouse was built in 1886, enlarging the existing frame schoolhouse, adding a stage, cloakrooms, chimney for coal stove. The entry door centered on the eastern façade was converted to a window and the original windows on either side were converted to two doors allowing entry through the cloakrooms.

The name, Prairie Grove, was continued, but it was better known to the community as the "Allison School". E.H. Chapman was County Superintendent at that time and Estelle Stewart was hired to teach at \$35.00 per month. In 1893 the enrollment reached fifty-seven students. During the school term of 1897-98 the enrollment reached sixty-three. Three generations of the Allison, Droege, Schultz, and Wissler families attended school there. Other families who lived in the district who had two generations of students attending the Prairie Grove School were the following: Kerl, Werner, Korber, Katz, Wiesedeppe, Poppe, and Rilinger.

Eloise Rinne of Overland Park, Kansas, wrote of her memories of teaching at the country school. She remembers the outdoor toilets and carrying coal from the coal shed to heat the school. Water was brought from home each day and stored in a crock with a spigot on it.

"One of the things that impressed me most, you taught all ages of children, but when you gave one group a lesson, they worked on it. They never interrupted while you taught the others. I believe they were more capable of thinking things through. They had to." Eloise Rinne added. She said that

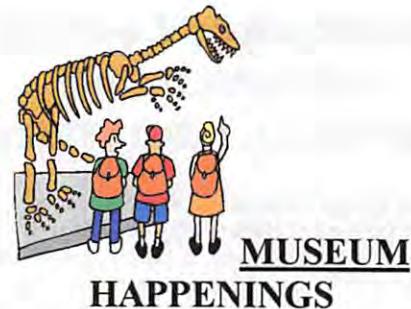
disciple was never a problem for her at Prairie Grove as long as the children were kept busy.

Les Droege of Seneca, Kansas is proud of his rural education. He shares stories about his memories of the country school: McGuffey Readers, wooden desks, slate blackboards, potbellied stoves, kerosene lamps, and screened privies. The children walked, rode horses, or drove buggies to school along dirt roads. The students had two programs each year. The Christmas program was held in the evening and everyone joined them for a potluck dinner on the last day of school. More than fifty different teachers taught kindergarten through eighth grade in the schoolhouse. School board members who gave more than twenty years of service were: Louis Wiesedeppe, J.M. Rilinger, and Christ Katz. A number gave ten to fifteen years of service including: R. T. Allison, Will Katz, Nathan Allison, Glen Allison, and Herbert Marteney. Henry Droege and John Wissler each served nine years.

The District Superintendent notified the school board in 1961 that state regulations demanded that the school year be extended to nine months from eight months. At the spring school meeting in 1963, the patrons voted to close Prairie Grove to unify with the Bern Public School, District 92. The unification date was May 10, 1963. Prairie Grove was the last one teacher school with continuous service to be disorganized in Nemaha County. Mrs. David Rinne was the last teacher, earning \$420 per month.

An auction of the contents and schoolhouse was held on October 24, 1963. Gene Toby of Seneca was the auctioneer. Oth Warrick bought the school building, including the bell, for \$220.00. Due to interest shown to preserve the Prairie Grove Schoolhouse, Mabel Wiesedeppe Grollmes solicited donations. On January 4, 1964, a meeting was held at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Leslie Droege, when the group decided to organize into an alumni group called "The Old Settlers". The alumni group of thirteen former students purchased the building for the auction price. Nathan Allison agreed to allow the building to remain on his property. A reunion date of former teachers, pupils and parents was set for August 16, 1964.

More than fifty former students and teachers attended the first reunion. The oldest pupil present was Mrs. Anna Poppe Siems of Beatrice, Nebraska, and the oldest teacher was Lela Lightbody Crandall of Corning. The Alumni group maintained the building and held yearly reunions of all former teachers and students. In 2000, with only a few members still alive, the alumni group returned the building to the current landowners, Rex and Debbie Farwell. This property was researched and application submitted for the historic registry by DarlAnn Rial, amateur Historic Preservation Specialist.



## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

**Sternberg Exhibits:** The Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays will feature a total of eight temporary exhibitions to supplement their permanent exhibits for the remainder of 2006.

**The Smoky Hill Museum** in Salina opened their newly renovated Crossroads of the Heartland Gallery on April 28, 2006.

**Senior Wednesdays:** The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum in Wichita is featuring Senior Wednesdays. Seniors, age 55 and over are invited to enjoy special programs at 10:00 a.m. every fourth Wednesday.

**Save Our History-The History Channel:** Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Preservation organizations, museum, historical societies, libraries, and archives are invited to join. [Save Our History](#) and team up with local schools to help save your community's history. Since 2004, The History channel has given \$500,000 in [Save Our History](#) grants to 55 history organizations to find partnerships with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects. Applications must be received by Friday, June 2, 2006. For more information visit: [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com)

**Museums and Young People:** The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is inviting museums all over the world to celebrate the theme "Museums and Young People", for International Museum Days. Suggestions for such activities include a "Create-your-own Art gallery", a paper-mache' contest, whereby children will be awarded prizes for their work, "Bring Your Own Collection" day whereby children bring rocks, sea shells, stickers, bugs, or whatever to showcase items, or create a "Job Junction" which highlights volunteer opportunities at the museum, targeting teenagers.



**KSHS Blazing  
Guns & Rugged  
Heroes Special  
Exhibit Through  
September 30,  
2006**



The Vorhes Studio  
Direct Marketing Design, Bethesda, Maryland

February 14, 2006

Dear Society Board,  
I was very happy to receive the February newsletter. It was nice being mentioned and having my Great Grandfather, the locomotive "chainer", get some recognition. But what really pleased me was the announcement of the "Settling Nemaha County" photo preservation program, exactly what I was urging you to begin in 2003. It appears that you will soon all be computer savvy and your collection will be recorded and preserved digitally for eternity. This will allow you to retrieve images easily, share them with researchers and other museums and perhaps make some money for the Historical Society.

I believe we discussed the problems of having your collection organized only by your 16 towns. Having the collection "on the computer" means you can organize it in many ways far beyond your traditional structure. Thinking just in terms of photography, the new system will allow you to cross reference photos by subjects, years, or events that affected the entire county or region. As you scan these photos your Past/perfect program should allow you to do this. I immediately see it opening your collection to curators who can search for images to help tell a story, either for their own research or for a special exhibit at the Museum. There are many exhibit worthy subjects now in your collection which heretofore have been difficult or impossible to assemble. Some of these subjects would not only be interesting to your student audience but to adults as well. If texts and essays are well written your exhibits could travel and collect fees for the Society.

Below are some exhibit ideas that you might consider as you get your collection recorded and categorized by subject. Each could make a good photo book that could be sold.

**"Main Street"** All over the county, how the business street grew, civic pride, architecture, the events (parades, horseracing, celebrations), disasters (fires, floods, storms, etc.), evolution of architecture through the years until today. Early day photos and present day photos of each community's main street could be displayed. The Chambers of Commerce in each community within Nemaha County will like this subject if they are determined to keep "Main Street" alive.

**"Hooves and Wheels"** All forms of transportation that effected the growth of Nemaha County such as trails, wagons, tractors, trains, cars, planes. The exhibit might include drawings and photos of the Pony Express trails and the railroad era.

**"Celebrations"** Holidays, weddings, christenings, dances, rallies, parades, picnics, and family gatherings: how people marked happy occasions. Cover a recent wedding and compare it to an early day wedding. Do an interview with an old timer remembering a good time.

**"What We Wear"** People in their "Sunday Best" or on the street or at work clothes could be displayed. J.C. Penny, Montgomery Ward catalogs, patterns and fashion ads would be displayed to show how early settlers made and bought our clothes.

**"Homesteads"** How we settled the county, the first houses, how we built them, Sears and Roebuck, the early farms and how they grew. The Depression, agribusiness, what has happened to the original homes, renovations, abandonment's and teardowns! The efforts to preserve our architecture.

**"Nemaha"** A fine art look at the best photos of the collection selected for artistic merit and photographic quality. Framed in period frames!

If you recall, I developed exhibits for the U.S. Information Agency and think in terms of subjects, message, and ease of production. Your new inventory method will allow you to think this way as well and perhaps generate some more interest in the Society.

Keep up the good work and accept this check to buy a few CD's.

—Sincerely, John Vorhes

#### NCHS Administrative Board

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(07)	V-P Richard Schmitz	336-6596
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Support:	Joyce & Eldon	336-3334
	Olberding	
Finance:	Dean Rial	336-0053

# Nemaha County Historical Society

## **2006-2007 Membership Form**

**Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.**

PO Box 41

Seneca, Kansas 66538

E-Mail: nchs@carsoncomm.com

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:**

Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00/year  
 Individual-Historical Society with Genealogy Society membership (HG) \$15.00/year  
 Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L) \$200.00  
 Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B) \$25.00/year

**Number of Memberships:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

The new annual membership fee of \$10.00 will become effective on July 1, 2006. The annual membership fee provides a quarterly newsletter, attendance at administrative board meetings and free admission to the museum. Only one newsletter will be mailed after the deadline of July 1, 2006, if the annual membership fee expires. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites. A framed certificate would be distributed to each business member. The Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501©(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.



**Historical Museum**

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

**NONPROFIT ORG  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID**  
Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538

**Mary Steinlage  
7148 Settle St.  
Kelly, KS 66538-2663**

2006H

# THE PIONEER PRESS

AUGUST, 2006

## Dates to Remember

August 8-12: OCTA-24th annual convention.  
August 15: NCHS Board Meeting: 7 p.m.  
August 19: Beattle Milo Festival  
September 3: St. Peter and Paul Annual Picnic  
September 9-10: Albany Days  
September 12: NCHS Board Meeting: 7 p.m.  
September 15-17: Great Highway 36 Treasure Hunt  
October 7: 2-5 p.m. Music at the Depot Museum  
October 7-8: Heritage Days: NCHS & Pony Express Society, Seneca  
October 20-Dec 3: Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Lucas, Kansas  
Oct 27-20: 2006 Rendezvous, Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned  
November 1-3: KMA Conference: Hays  
November 14: NCHS Board Meeting: 7 p.m.  
February 13, 2007: NCHS Board Meeting: 7 p.m.  
March 15, 2007: Annual Soup Day  
May 8, 2007: NCHS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
June 12, 2007: NCHS Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.  
July 10, 2007: NCHS Organizational Meeting

## NEMAHIA COUNTY RECEIVES TWO HERITAGE TRUST FUND GRANTS

The Nemaha County Historical Museum in Seneca was one of two Nemaha County applications approved for the 2006 Heritage Trust Fund. Seventeen projects were chosen by the Kansas State Historical Society from sixty-two eligible applications.

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review awarded the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence a grant of \$30,800 towards a \$38,500 project for condition assessment and construction work.

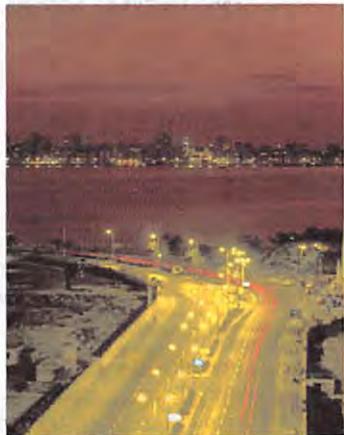
The grant will provide for a structural engineer to determine the cause of the failing porch support system followed by repair or replacement. The consultant will

also develop a long-range preservation and maintenance plan for the building, built in 1878.

The Request For Consultant/Architect Bids were published locally and mailed to six out of town consultants. The Board of Directors opened bids and held consultant interviews on July 20th.

Marion Township Hall, the other Nemaha County Property chosen for the Heritage Trust Funds, was awarded \$55,296 towards a \$69,120 project to complete foundation repairs on the north and west foundation. The work will be identical to work previously completed on the south and east sides. The grant recipient, Glacial Hills Resource Con-

servation and Development Region, Inc, submitted a waiver of the bidding process and requested the approval of Thieme Construction of Sabetha be contracted to complete the project. KSHS approved the request.



**The September 15-17, 2006 Garage Sale will stretch to state borders.**

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2006: NCHS BOARD MEETING: 7 P.M. TREASURE HUNT ON U.S. HIGHWAY 36—MAIN TOPIC

The "Great US Highway 36 Treasure Hunt", a 400-mile-long-garage sale, will be the focus of the NCHS Board Meeting on August 15, 2006 at 7 p.m. Sandwiches will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt is planned for Friday through Sunday, September 15—17, 2006.

Nemaha County Historical Society will have a sale booth set up on the museum lawn at 113 North 6th Street in Seneca.

Baileyville will participate at Marion Township Hall at 1st and Main Street with proceeds going to support Marion Hall's restoration.

The sale is being planned by the US Highway 36 Association based on a similar event in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

Each county will be responsible for its own maps and promotional materials. Set the weekend in the middle of September for a fun road trip for your family.

## ACQUISITIONS

**Matt Diehl**, Courier-Tribune, Seneca donated an type-setting wood chest with lead letters in the drawers.

**Robert Ackerman** donated an air-conditioner for Annex I, which will be installed once adequate electrical power is delivered.

**Doug Ackerman**, Ackerman Lock and Key, donated sixty-four *Nemaha County Cemeteries Book I* for a NCHS fundraising project, a two drawer filing cabinet (fire proof) for document preservation storage and has offered two jail doors to NCHS for use in building a store area in Annex II.

**Glenette Mitchell**, Seneca, donated Frank McGehee artifacts, including his Honorable Discharge (1946),, box camera, Army photos, a book, *Picture Story of the World War*, Company banner and old Seneca photos. (1941)

**Robert Strathman**, Seneca, donated an air-mail letter and stamp, the first Airmail sent from Seneca (1938) and related news stories.

**Marcia Philbrick**, Seneca, CD-Rom Library: Family Search 1880 United States Census and National Index and Pedigree Resource File: Volume 1.

**Dorothy Wempe**, Seneca, crystal oil lamp, eight glass negatives from Strathman Photography of Dorothy, her parents, Joseph and Bertha Nolte (1913) and the home of her grandparents, F.B and Ida Strathman.

**Alma Ackerman**, 49 Photographic Print and Greeting Post Cards of Seneca, Oneida and Baileyville.

**Anna Wilhelm**, Jackson County Historical Society, sent an email notifying NCHS that a wooden box of Goff and Seneca newspapers had been donated. Ken & Millie Stallbaumer brought the box to the NCHS museum for evaluation.

## ACQUISITIONS

**Silvia Hecht**, Seneca, donated WWI artifacts of Frank Joe Wicki, Bern, Kansas, including dog tags, photos, Certificate of Honorable Discharge, scrapbook, and uniform jacket.

**Rachel Bergman**, Seneca, donated three pieces of ornate woodwork from Gilford Hotel lobby, old newspapers with Kennedy & WWII stories.

**Don Henry**, Goff, donated a 1950's surge bucket miker and fork lift from the Henry-Farm.

**Donald Spielman**, Seneca, Five classroom text books

**Dorothy Haverkamp** donated photo of Dr. Gideon Anderson and his wife, Alice Strader Anderson.

**Shirley McCauley**, Hardin III; photo of Cora Septor Duryea and genealogy research documentation of Joshua Smith family.

**Ken & Millie Stallbaumer**, textbooks , 47 phonographs for the Edison Victrolia, two books 1940 & 42 Popular Mechanics.

**Alma Ackerman**: Death Certificates of three (3) Pony Express Riders; Kansas History Booklet, Spring 1999, Kansas Barns

**Sally Lauer**, Seneca, donated two Crazy Quilts: one from Georgie Davis estate and the other belonged to Geneva Lauer, Dave's Mother; a BPW scrapbook, the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital Fundraising mementos, photos, maps, and post cards.

**Mary Leighty**, Bancroft Preservation Assoc, provided photos and documents of the depot, church and #77 schoolhouse to be copied for the Bancroft Collection.

**M.A. York**, Seneca; Model Third Reader by J. Russell Webb, 1875.

## HERITAGE DAYS RECEIVE GRANT FROM TOURISM FUNDS

**Nemaha County Historical Society & Pony Express Preservation Society** have been awarded \$1,000 by the Seneca Travel and Tourism Board to help fund the October 6-7, 2006 Heritage Days . The grant will provide fuel for tour vehicles and pay for an expanded advertising campaign to promote the Heritage Days Event. The theme, "Settling Nemaha County", will be in celebration of 150 years of rich cultural heritage.

At the event, visitors can mingle with early settlers dressed in authentic period cloth, providing living history demonstrations. Scheduled tours of Nemaha County sites listed on the Registry of Historic Places are planned. A walking tour will include the Pony Express Museum and Sheriff's Residence and Jail. Re-enactment of the Pony Express Ride and early settlement events are planned.

Tickets will be sold for a Victorian Tea held at one of the oldest homes in Seneca on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION  
SEEKING A FUNDRAISING  
OPPORTUNITY?

CONSIDER A FUNDRAISING  
BOOTH OR ACTIVITY AT THE  
NCHS & PEPS

HERITAGE DAYS EVENT  
ON SAT & SUN,

OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2006!

RESERVE A CHOICE BOOTH  
OR ACTIVITY!  
CALL

Mary Fleming 336-2285  
or Anita Heiman  
785-556-4094

OREGON-  
CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS  
ASSOCIATION

2006  
Convention

August 8-12,  
2006

Ramada Inn

St. Joseph, MO

[www.stjomo.com/new/  
OCTA\\_2006.htm](http://www.stjomo.com/new/OCTA_2006.htm)

Nemaha County Youth and  
Community Organizations  
are invited to participate for  
fundraisers by providing  
food, crafts, sidewalk sales,  
antiques, or specialty items.

Live musical entertainment,  
story telling, learning opportuni-  
ties, ice cream, popcorn  
and movies will be provided.

## ALUMNI GROUP VISITS MUSEUM ON MEMORIAL DAY

The following Seneca High School Alumni met and toured the museum on Memorial Day.

1933: Mamie Sausser Beyreis and Hazel Zettle Hoffman; 1936: Leslie Droege & wife, Lola; 1940: Arden Droege & wife, Bessie; Mark Stallbaumer & wife, Elda; 1941: Anita Kelley Tuttle & husband Julius; Agnes Powers Schaefer & husband, Edgar; 1942: Helen Sausser Foltz; 1944: Rex Reist & wife, Mary; 1946: Bessie Sausser Droege and husband Arden; John Sausser and wife Janice; Eva Luginbill Krotzinger; Alvin Kussman and wife, Lois; Harry Droege and wife, Norma; 1949: Shirley Kirk, Paul Jones and wife, Jeanette; Kenneth McKee; Phyllis Feldkamp Anderson

and husband.; Jean Korber Jones, Hank Elder and wife, Mary; 1950: Janice moorehead Sausser and husband John; 1951: Judith Beauchamp and husband Glen; Howard Smalley and wife Sue Kathy; Lowell Elder and wife Lela; Lois Clough Merriman; Edward Slack; Vonda Bredmeier Huerter; 1953: Richard Stansell and wife Patricia; 1954: Mary Jo Godbout Berges and husband Don; Kent Troughton; 1955: Charles Townsend and wife Edna; 1956: Mary Ellen Williams Godbout; Ronald Godbout; Maxine smith Mayhew and husband Roy; Alveda Myers heiden and husband Don; Jane Troughton McConnell; Freda Shockey Galer; Elaine Mueting

Brown; George Crandall and wife Nancy; Shirley Heidemann; Richard Lohmann and wife Carol; 1957: Alan Ward and wife Sandra; Fred Barnes and wife Paulette; Doug Welsh and wife, 1958: Sharon Stump Adair; Sandra McKee War and Jerry Faunce; 1960: Jeanette Hash Welsh and husband Doug, Roger Gafford; 1962: Mary Shockey Linslow; Don Faunce and wife Judy; 1963: Lyle Sockey; Sharon Shockey Heath; Joyce Dunn Barrett; 1965: Linda Lindeen Hedges; Jane Shockey Paul; 1966: Claudia McKinsey, Sandra Lindeen Vaught; 1968: Carol Shockey Rodaway and husband Roger.



## Inquiries:

Milt Hinshilwood, Knoxville, Tennessee left a message on the museum's phone, requesting a picture postcard of the current Nemaha County Courthouse. NCHS purchased one at Harsh Drug and mailed to him.



**Majorie Hankins of Newmarket, ON, Canada** found Ken Stallbaumer's article about the Old Van Loan School on the website. She was looking for her ancestor, Jacob Vanloon and his brother John, who settled in Nemaha County in 1870. She traced Calonel Vanloon back to Girard, Erie, PA.

## Special Guests:

Out-of-state guests at the Nemaha County Historical Society's Annual Meeting were Jan Dubat, Coon Rapids, MN., Linda Dube, Hazelhurst, WI., Lila Nelson, Lakeland, MN., Milltown, WI. childhood friends and house guests of Sally Lauer.

## NEW BOOK ON SALE AT MUSEUM

*Under the Cottonwood Tree* offers a glimpse of bygone days in rural Nebraska early in the 20th century. Like living in Nemaha County, Kansas, it was a time when money was scarce, work was hard and turpentine was a cure-all.

This charming farm family survives by working together.

The children are loveable, laughable, and sometimes mischievous. Written by Zoa Fairchild, born in Miller, Nebraska, she later taught in a one room schoolhouse where she developed a love of children's literature.

Other Books for sale at the Historical Museum are: *The Moccasin Speaks* by Arlene

Feldmann, a story of living as a captive of the Dog Soldier Warriors during the Red River War of 1874-1875, and *The Kid*, an autobiography by Lon Ford, cowboy outlaw who became one of the most respected Kansas Sheriffs during the 30's and 40's.

NCHS receives a portion of the benefit sales.

The Heritage Days schedule continues to grow!

Troubadours, historic story tellers, actors, six historical tours , antique tractors, trucks and toys, vendors and many living history demonstrations.

The Pony Express Museum will hold a biscuit & gravy breakfast on Sat. morning 7-10 a.m. followed by tours and art show. The Historical Museum will provide 18th Century lunch. Both museums will provide tours and Country Store items.

## Settling Nemaha County

Heritage Days Contest  
Prizes will be given for the outstanding Nemaha County Family History Submitted with Photographs (will be returned to contestant)

**Deadline: September 15, 2006**

Check your mailing label!  
Have you paid your NCHS 2006-07 Dues?  
Are you a member ?

The NCHS Membership Application is on Page 9. Cut it out, complete and mail to PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538. % Membership: Dorothy Pearl Murphy.

## NEMAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Nemaha Historical Museum  
PO Box 41  
113 North 6th  
Seneca, Kansas 66538  
Phone: 785-336-6366  
Museum Email: nchs@carsoncomm.com  
Editor Email: dsrial@carsoncomm.com

NCHS WEBSITE:  
[www.skyways.org/orgs/  
nchs/](http://www.skyways.org/orgs/nchs/) or [www.seneca-  
ks.com](http://www.seneca-<br/>ks.com)



Dr. Gideon Anderson and his wife, Alice Strader Anderson. Photo donated by Dorothy Haverkamp. Dorothy's mother, Theresa Heideman, worked for the Scoville family, neighbors of the Andersons. The home of the Drs. Andersons will be the site of Victorian Teas, hosted by Sally Lauer, during the Heritage Days this Fall.

## SAVING OUR HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

Bancroft Preservation Association, located at the Bancroft Depot Museum, Wetmore, Kansas and an affiliate of the Nemaha County Historical Society, has published a professional brochure for distribution. The museum is open on Sundays 2:00–4:00 p.m. or by special appointment. Visit their website at <http://www.skyways.lib.ks.us/museums/Bancroft/Railroad/> or call 785-866-5288 or 785-379-5779 for more information.

## BETWEEN FENCES PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST IN LUCAS, KS

A Photography Exhibit Contest in conjunction with the 2006 Smithsonian Exhibition, "Between Fences" in Lucas, Kansas has been announced.

"Fences are more than functional objects. Fences are about intimacy, conflict, creativity and industry. They are powerful symbols. The way we define ourselves as individuals and as a nation becomes concrete in how we build fences."

This juried exhibition ask how would you interpret and reflect

the essence of the them, "Between Fences", through the medium of photography.

All entries must be framed or matted and ready to hang. Entry fees are: Professional—\$15; Amateur—\$10. Up to three photographs may be entered and delivered to the Grassroots Art Center by September 15, 2006.

The show will be on exhibit from October 20 through December 3, 2006. All hand delivered work may be picked up between Decem-

ber 4 and December 20, 2006. Works can be for sale; included 30% gallery commission in your price.

Awards are will be given as follows: Professional: First Place—\$100; Second Place—\$50. Amateur: Adult First Place—\$50; Second Place—\$25 Youth: First Place—\$35; Second Place—\$20.

For more information: [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org) or for entry forms: [www.grassrootarts.net](http://www.grassrootarts.net).

## Twenty-four Years and Counting.....

The 2006-2007 Fiscal Year will be the twenty-fourth year for Nemaha County Historical Society's publication of a quarterly newsletter. This August 2006 issue is the first issue of the 24th year.

Amelia M. Sudbeck and Donna Kirk were the first co-editors of the newsletter. Robert Strathman, Seneca, was president of the Board of Directors and Nancy Tempel was vice-president.

Mary Steinlage, current museum librarian, has organized a collection of all the Pioneer Press issues. Four issues are missing!

Do you have a copy of any of the following issues:

November 1990,

March 1991,

March 1992,

November 2003?????

## NOTE TO RESEARCHERS

Have You Borrowed the Pioneer Trails booklet and maps prepared by Morris Werner (1993)????

The Werner Map lists Log Chain being a Post Office from 1864-1888.

In his 1995 revision, Werner states, "Log Chain Station was established in 1860 by N. H. Rising specifically for the Pony Express." Later he says, "Robert Sewell, alias "Old Bob Ridley," settled at Log Chain."

## MILITARY ARTIFACTS DONATED

Local military buffs and researchers were thrilled with the newly donated WWII Artifacts from the Joseph F. Wicki Collection. Formerly of Bern, Kansas, Mr. Wicki was the company clerk and kept meticulous records of his 90th Infantry Division, with books and maps on the History of the Division during WWI and WWII.

His collection includes his uniform, dog tags, photos, pamphlets, tour guide, Notice of Classification (Feb. 16, 1942), Honorable Discharge record, a scrapbook with mementos of his tour of duty in WWII, 40 issues of Stars and Strips 1944-45, a German Atlas with tour of combat marked on maps, German booklets and pamphlets, European guide books for US Military personnel, a collection of sleeve and lapel insignia and German insignia.

Joe grew up in Bern. Joe and Viannah Hecht dated when they both worked in Sabetha and married on Feb. 20, 1942. Viannah Hecht was a sister to the late Francis Hecht. Their parents were Emil and Rose Hecht. Originally, Joe and Viannah lived where Silvia Hecht now lives.

Shortly before the war, Viannah followed Joe to Texas where he was based at Ft. Barkeley, south of Abilene, TX. After the war they lived in K.C. then moved to Enid, OK. Joe worked for a bread company and was transferred to Enid from K.C. Soon they bought a Office Supply Store in Kilgore and managed it until retirement. Joe passed away June 19, 2004 and Viannah passed away April 23, 2005. Her brother, Francis Hecht, passed away on April 6th of this year.

Joe was a brother to Amelia Wicki who lived in Bern, worked at the State Bank of Bern and collected history of the area. She donated many books for the start of the library in Bern. Joe has one surviving sister, Frances Barnes, who is in the Apostolic Home in Sabetha. She is 97 and still very sharp. Her hearing is poor but she is alert and knows what is going on around her. She likes to visit with people.



## OHIO OATMANS VISIT SENECA SITES AND STIR MEMORIES

### News of Our Neighbors:

The Marshall County Historical Society is nearing the completion of their Photo Project, funded by a Kansas Humanities Council 2005 grant.

Beth Skinner, Barb Fenstermacher and many volunteers have inventoried, cataloged and preserved 2,000 of a 2,5000 photograph collection.

Most photographs have been sorted, scanned, cataloged and stored. Those photos are now in individual sleeves made of special polyester and boxed by subject in strong storage boxes of archival material. The boxes are placed in metal file cabinets.

The Past Perfect software makes it possible to include a thumbnail version of each photo in the catalog record with a larger version viewed on the computer screen. Grant money will also be used to have negatives made of some of the most noteworthy photos at the Kansas State Historical Society.

When the cataloging is finished, MCHS plans to request loans from the public for significant photos to scan for the museum collection. The originals will be returned to owner.

Bess Oatman and son, Larry, Lima, Ohio and nephew Chuck Oatman and wife Nancy from Cairo, Ohio, visited the museum on June 13. Ken Stallbaumer guided the Oatmans through the museum and researched the Victory Country School and Blue Star Schools with them. Larry and Bess Oatman attended the Annual Meeting that evening and visited with Board Members and Guests.

The Oatmans were researching country schools because Bess's father taught at the Victory School, No 83, just east of Seneca around 1900. Bess's father by adoption, Frank L. Geary, was Cashier at the National Bank from 1923 to 1938. Bess graduated from Seneca High, and left Seneca when she was 17 years of age.

The Oatmans were trying to find records of her natural father. They visited the grave of her natural mother. They wanted to visit the old Oatman farm, located west of Nemaha Lake. The site was found on a 1908 map. The buildings were on the farm when they visited twenty years ago, but are gone now which was a disappointment to them.

They wanted to visit the Blue Star school, No 58, where Larry's father, Bess's husband, attended school. It is long gone, but they saw the merry-go-round from the school at the farm of Dan Henry farm. Victory school is gone, too.

Larry did research at the library about other relatives in the area and visited the Mission Law Office where the Old National Bank was originally located.

# DUES PAID SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

The Pioneer Press

August, 2006

Page 6

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### Historical and Genealogy:

Marietta Bailey, Topeka, KS Dorothy Dick, Smithville, MO  
Raymond Thieme, Sabetha Linda Palmer, Pelham, GA  
Susan Cochran, Topeka, KS Rita Floersch, Seneca, KS  
Kimberly Baker, Topeka Elaine TalarSKI, San Antonio, TX  
Richard Couch, Sa Ste. Marie, MI Bradford Miter, Xenia, OH  
Sandra Konzen, Marblehead, OH Earl Hoffman, Los Alamos, NM  
Dorothy E. Bailey, Port Angeles, WA  
Gertrude Herda, Caldwell, ID  
William Lockwood, Santa Barbara, CA  
Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Seneca

### Historical

Angela Haug, Seneca Dorothy A. Rooney, Lawrence  
Roger Huerter, Leawood, KS Cyrilla B. Sudbeck, St. Benedict  
Mary Ann Heinen, Topeka Esther K. Proffitt, Seneca  
Helen Foltz, Raytown, MO Bessie Oatman, Ohio  
Naomi Turner, Seneca Richard Schmitz, Seneca  
Mary Lindeen, Seneca Velven and M.A. York, Seneca  
Mary Steinlage, Kelly Lillian and Clarence Engelken, Seneca  
Mamie Beyreis, Prairie Village Roderick & Martha Becker, MO  
Theresa and John Hutfles, Centralia Keith and Vi Megill, Seneca  
Byron and Toby Lear, Bern Helen Lierz, Seneca  
Joyce and Eldon Olberding, Seneca Cecelia Niekamp, Seneca  
Joseph and Julie Ford, OR Stan and Cindy Murphy, Seneca  
Albert and Theresa Winkler, Seneca

### Business:

Bill Love, Lauer-Love, Inc., Lauer Funeral Home

Need Photographs: Recent Visitors to the Nemaha Co. Historical Museum are seeking photographs of the following churches:

Four Mile (Emmanuel) NE of Bern, KS

St. John's (#1) NW of Bern, KS

St. John's (#2) SW of Bern, KS

If you can help, call or write: Ray Hightower

1936 Bluestem Terrace

"I enjoy the Pioneer Press. I was pleased to see the item about the ironing mangle that Mary Smith used at the Gilford? Hotel. Just one clarification: Mary Grollmes Smith was Jack Graney's sister-in-law, the sister of Elizabeth Grollmes Graney. She was the sister-in-law of my dad, Tom Graney."

—Judy Graney Bond

Linda Palmer, Pelham, GA writes: "I am very interested in Nemaha County. I have four sets of grandparents buried there. I descend from Batson Dennis and the Huffs. I visited your town about four years ago and everyone was so nice and friendly."

**Bancroft Depot Museum** is hosting an afternoon of music on October 7th from 2 to 5 p.m. One of the Nemaha County Heritage Days historic tours will go to Bancroft and enjoy a little time eating at the concessions and entering the free drawings for prizes. Tour of the Community Church and District #77 Schoolhouse are available, too.

**A Special Thanks to Bob Ackerman for installing this month, the air-conditioner that he donated last month. His extra effort to cool down the Annex I for guests and staff is greatly appreciated.**

## Lauer Funeral Home

Locally Owned

Serving All Faiths since 1901

Pre-need Funeral Plans & Monuments

**Call for An Appointment: 785-336-2101  
Toll Free 1-888-507-5589**

785-336-2101

1-888-507-5589

Lauer Funeral obituaries on the internet:

[www.lauerfuneralhome.com](http://www.lauerfuneralhome.com)

Located at 212 South 4th Street,

Seneca, KS 66538

# Visitors to the museum

## Recent Guests who signed the guest book:

May 24: R.L Thieme, Sabetha

May 27: Paul Jones, Ken McKee of Bowie, MO; Hank Elder, Overland park; Shirley Kirk, Goldsboro, NE; J. Sack, Steamboat Springs, CO; Ann Johnson, CA;

May 28: Andy Pigview, Judith Beauchamp, Dunfries, VA; Richard Buessing, NH; Mimi Moss Buessing, Bernice Buessing, Merred, CA;

May 29: Jane McConnell, Mission, KS; Gladys Easton, Oakland CA; Leroy Tims, Seneca.

June 3: Patti Dean, Goff.

June 5: Rachel Bergman, Seneca; Ray and Wilma Kennedy, Missouri.

June 7: Joe and Barb Vorhes, Hunt, Texas; Richard M. Vorhes, San Antonio, Texas.

June 10: Jean Stueve, Sara Stueve, Topeka; Leah and Ellen Rowland, Lee's Summit; Laura Noland, Seneca.

June 20: Nancy Sampson, Junction City visited the Museum to do research for Peter J. Gurtler, Sr., the only German homesteader of the Neuchatal Township.

June 21: Stu and Ruth Hunghie, Topeka.

June 22: Dane, Nathan, Conner Deters, Seneca, KS;

June 23: Howi Heideman, Joe McGehee, Seneca

June 24: John and Karen Lanscott, Richardson, Texas. Karen was a Centralia High School classmate of Anita Heiman and was attending a family reunion in Centralia.

June 26: Dorothy Wempe, Seneca; Stan Hernly and Don McMan, Lawrence

June 27: Kathy Douglas, Jordan, Jill and Rianna, Seneca; Salt Lake City Genealogy Library Representative Philip Skon, Carbondale, Kansas

July 5: Sue Sylak, Peggy and Don Laverentz, Georgetown, TX; Janet and Dave Hensel, Rockwall, Texas

July 10: Kayda Vitt, Seneca; Jordan and Katelyn Vitt, Eudora

July 11: Joe Nessercrotn and Marsha Hall, Loveland, CO

July 12: Trent Kennedy, Frankfort; Mitchell Heiman, Seneca

July 18: Stephanie and Haley Tiernan, Seneca

July 20: Louis Drogue, Topeka

July 21: Ray and Marlene Hightower, Manhattan; Skylar Lewis

## PROGRESS REPORT

### "Settling Nemaha County" Photo/Document Preservation

#### Kansas Humanities Council Project:

#### August 15th Status

Step One: Research: Stacey Heinen and the computer team have all the accession and acquisition records entered into the Past Perfect Software. Stacy has moved to processing arrangements by catalogs and barcodes for all identifiable photos and archives. Kenny' Stallbaumers Photos are being attached to each identifiable item.

Step Two: Inventory: Diane Rottinghaus and the catalog team have completed approximately 1/6 of the total inventory of the museum. The catalog team will continue to inventory each room, book and box and coordinate with Computer team to identify items and location. They will decide whether or not maintaining original order is possible.

Step Three: Index: The Archive Team is Identifying and indexing the information in the records, collections and series to determine arrangement schemes according to the preservation plan.

To help a few hours, contact Diane or the person on duty: Monday: Dorothy Pearl Murphy; Tuesday: Joyce Oberding; Wednesday: Diane Rottinghaus; Thursday: Mary Steinlage; Friday: Lillian Engelken.

### Registry of Historical Places:

#### Bancroft Church Preservation Project: (Stage 1)

The Bancroft Depot Preservation Society has developed plans to preserve the Bancroft Church across the street from the depot. Mary Leighty has sent deeds, records and history to DarlAnn Rial to prepare a Preliminary Application for listing on the Register of Historic Places. If you have any photographs or information that will help with this project, please call DarlAnn at 336-0053.

#### Lake Nemaha Bridge #53 Pillars: (Stage 2)

The preliminary application for submitting an application for listing on the Registry of Historic Places has been approved for Lake Nemaha Bridge #53 Pillars as a part of a CCC Camp Project. The application is now being prepared for submission this fall.

#### Seneca Hand Dug Water Well, Seneca: (Stage 4)

The final application for listing the Old City Hand-Dug Well on the National Registry of Historical Places has been accepted by the staff of KSHS. Review by the Kansas Historic Sites of Board of Review is scheduled for August 16, 2006.

#### Log Chain Ranch, Pony Express Site: (Evaluating)

An evaluation team of Lillian Engelken, Stacey Heinen, Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Ilene Huffman, Keith Hailey, Dean and DarlAnn Rial and Art Scoby visited the site on July 10th prior to filing a preliminary application for listing site on the Registry for Historic Places.



**American Indian Code Talkers Exhibit:** The Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum, Arkansas City, KS has the honor of being the first institution to host the *American Indian Code Talkers* exhibit, a Smithsonian traveling exhibition. The exhibit will be at the museum from November 1, 2006 through January 7, 2007. The exhibit will be there for Veteran's Day, Native American Month in November and for Pearl Harbor Day. The Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission costs are: Seniors: \$3.50, adults: \$4.50, children 6-12: \$2.00, and under 6 years are free. For more information call 620-442-6750.

**Wanted: Baby Quilts and their stories:**

The Jackson County Historical Society is planning a fall exhibit at the Roebke Museum featuring baby quilts plus some of their collection of dolls and children's clothing. If you have a baby quilt and a story to share, contact Margaret Utz at 785-872-3635 or Anna Wilhelm at 364-4991 by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Cole House Museum-KHC Photograph Project:** The Cole House Museum in Moundridge recently finished a Kansas Humanities Council grant on Photograph Preservation. The grant project covered the organization of a collection of photographs that were sorted, identified where possible, and properly stored. The project initially estimated 1,500 photographs, but at the project's end there were 2,800 photographs. The project resulted in all photographs being transferred into proper storage conditions and this was accomplished within the museums space constraints. An album was created from copies of the originals, primarily of the Cole family and early Moundridge, for the Cole House Museum. The album highlights the story of a Kansas pioneer family. A traveling exhibit was also developed focusing on Moundridge, early settlers, agricultural methods, portraits of early citizens. They are available to groups, schools, clubs, churches or families at no charge.

**2006 Rendezvous,** Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned: Rendezvous 2006: Zebulon Pike and the birth of the Santa Fe Trail is a three day event exploring the impact of Pike on the development of the Santa Fe Trail. For a complete schedule of events contact the Santa Fe Trail Center at [www.awav.net/trailctr](http://www.awav.net/trailctr) or call 620-285-2054. The event was awarded a KHC Humanities Grant.

## 2006-2007 NCHS Organizational Meeting Minutes

President Anita Heiman opened the annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 in Annex I. Secretary Naomi Turner read the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on July 13, 2006. The minutes were approved with one correction. Treasurer DarlAnn Rial submitted the financial report. Curator Lillian Engelken submitted accessions from Matt Diehl, Robert Ackerman, Doug Ackerman, Sally Lauer, Glenette Mitchell, and Dorothy Wempe for Board approval. DarlAnn Rial made a motion and Naomi Turner seconded the motion to approve the list of acquisitions. Motion carried. After receiving a permit and utilities are marked, Dean will install the Heritage Trust sign.

Anita brought to order the nominations for next year's officers. Nominated were Anita Heiman, president; Richard Schmitz, vice-president; DarlAnn Rial, treasurer-secretary. The vote was unanimous and all accepted their positions. The Courier-Tribune was named official newspaper and United Bank and Trust as the official depository. Anita Heiman appointed Bill Rettele and Richard Schmitz to submit recommendations to Anita Heiman for appointment of Board member to fill Board vacancy and serve the remaining two years on term left by James Yunghans who is moving out-of-state for an employment opportunity. The following appointments were made for the year: Ken Stallbaumer, Public Relations; Mary Steinlage, Obituary, Scrapbook, Library and Labeling; Lillian Engelken, Curator; Joyce Olberding, Assistant Curator; DarlAnn Rial, Pioneer Press Editor; Dorothy Pearl Murphy and Bill Rettele, Memberships; Richard Schmitz, Theresa Hutfles and Gene Visser, Building Committee; Eldon Olberding (chairman), Frank Heiman, Byron Lear and Mark Heiman, Landscaping; Dean Rial, Finance; and Diane Rottinghaus, Fundraising.

President Anita Heiman will appoint a committee to organize a booth for the "Great US Highway 36 Treasure Hunt" on September 15-17, 2006. All 2006-2007 board meetings will be at the museum at 7:00 p.m. and dinner meetings at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings for the coming year will be August 15, September 12, November 14, 2006, February 13, 2007, and May 8, 2007. October 7-8, 2006, has been designated for the annual Heritage Days. March 15, 2007, will be the annual soup day, June 12, 2007, will be the Annual Meeting, and July 10, 2007, will be the organization meeting.

In other business, the Board set two priorities for the 2006-2007 year: Storage and Landscaping needs. Approval was given to file for a Kansas Museum Association grant to provide funding for the storage room project. The schedule for the Heritage Days set for October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> was reviewed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The Conrad Droege Farm, 232 Township Road I, Nemaha County was approved for listing on the Register of Historic Kansas Places on May 25, 2005.



The Conrad Droege Farm, known today as the Lazy D Ranch, is one mile south of the Nebraska State line and ten miles north of Seneca, Kansas, in Nemaha County, Kansas. The Ranch drapes over a ridge overlooking the valley formed by nearby Nemaha River and Turkey Creek.

The 130-acre farm was purchased in 1873 by Conrad Droege who built a one and half story "I" Stone House in 1874, added a rock wing in 1880, and further extended the wing in 1908. He built the two-story Stone Barn in 1875. A frame chicken house (1880), frame work shed (1908) one car garage (1929), shop and two car garage (1947), and silo (1950) are contributing resources to the Lazy D Ranch farmstead.

The original house built in 1874 is symmetrical with centered entry and interior paired end chimneys. The "I" house is built of native limestone, resting on a limestone foundation. Originally, the rock house had three rooms on the first floor, four rooms on the second level and full basement. Each room had a heating stove, but is now heated by propane. The eighteen inch thick wall-

The Pioneer Press, August 2006 Insert

bearing, limestone block walls which are now plastered on the inside, separate all the rooms. A narrow, steep stair leads to four small bedrooms which are directly over the three rooms below. Each second floor bedroom has a sloping ceiling. The exposed stone walls of the second floor have recently been covered with wall board for insulation.

A new kitchen wing with an interior brick chimney on the eastern wall was built in 1880. The original kitchen became a parlor while the new wing provided a dining room - kitchen, a spring room around the original hand-dug well on the south, and a lean-to porch with enclosed pantry on the north.

A one-story stone extension was built to the eastern elevation of the 1880's room in 1908. This addition provided a more modern kitchen and the former kitchen became the dining room. This addition had a pantry and another screened porch on the north. Water was pumped from the stock tank from south of the barn to a new bathroom in the original house. In 1947 plumbing was added to the kitchen and the pantry became a utility room.

A double garage and shop were added to the original one car garage in 1947 using recycled wood from an abandoned community schoolhouse and filling station. The eastern elevation has recently been covered with fiberboard.

The original stone house has eighteen inch thick exterior stone walls. The stone is smooth-faced, limestone blocks, laid in coursed ashlar bond. Portland cement mortar has been used to preserve the mortar on the original building. Window and door sills are 42 inch x 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch limestone "lug" sills with smooth, dressed surfaces. The flat lintels over the exterior doors and windows are smooth-faced

limestone, seven inches high, with six inch bearing on each side.

A long, wood lean-to porch was built in 1880 and extended to thirty feet in 1908 to surround the thirty-two foot deep, four-foot wide, rock walled hand-dug well. The well remains under the current front porch, but is capped with a spring-locked wooden cover.

The peaked roof stone barn graces the rural Kansas countryside much like other Northeast Kansas barns built when the German immigrants first arrived in the New World. Although in many other areas the big old barns continue to deteriorate and disappear from the agrarian landscape, this barn continues to serve as an important purpose as in bygone years. The 42 ft. x 52 ft. stone barn has an open, southern façade, second floor granary, and central wagon ramp and windmill.

**The first floor of the barn is divided into equipment shed on the eastern elevation and livestock shelter on the western elevation. The central barn area has a sloping twelve-foot wide ramp. This large two story building was originally topped with a cupola, but it was removed. The barn is complete with hay storage in the loft, granaries, stalls for livestock, and a threshing area.**

The fir interior framework beams for the stone house and barn were brought by horse and wagon from St. Joseph, Missouri, and are fastened with square headed nails and wooden dowels. Hay was loaded in past years into the barn through big loft doors at the northern end of the barn.

The foundation of the house and barn are limestone rock blocks. Using feathers and wedges, Conrad Droege obtained rock from Wessler's Quarry, located two miles south of the ranch on Turkey Creek. Since limestone in this area is naturally formed in layers, the rock need only be

chiseled and hammered to shape the stone for the walls into pitched-face blocks, which he laid in uniform courses, using a native lime and clay mix for mortar. Each limestone block has stonework that creates straight edges which allows the blocks to be put up in a straight line. With time, the lime and clay mortar deteriorated enough that birds built nests between the rocks. In 1948, Portland cement mortar was used to restore and preserve the mortar on the original buildings.

The stone barn and house are reminiscent of Dutch Colonial country houses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The interior paired end brick chimneys and unflared eaves suggest rural traditional Colonial. The most distinctive feature of the barn is the structural fir timbers on H-shaped bents formed by two end posts connected with horizontal anchor beam. The anchor-beams bents are arranged down the length of the building, connected by a sill at the bottom and a plate at the top with wooden pegs.

The current owner Leslie Droege, has restored and preserved the historic German immigrant stone-buildings of his grandfather with creativity and ingenuity. Leslie Droege has expanded and developed the ranch into a prosperous venture while significantly influencing the lives of people in Nemaha County and the State of Kansas. Over the past 130 years, livestock of sheep, pigs and cattle have been raised on the ranch. Milo, soy beans, corn and wheat have been cultivated at various times. Times have changed over the past hundred and thirty years and farm needs have changed, too. The pastures and cultivated land are now leased by neighbors, but the Droege family descendants continue to own, maintain and live in the stone ranch house and enjoy the ranch.

*(To Be Continued in November 2006  
Pioneer Press)*

BISCUIT-GRAVY BREAKFAST

# Nemaha County Heritage Days

Antique Car-Truck-Tractor  
Show

Buggy Rides - Craftmen

The Nemaha County Historical Society and the Pony Express Preservation Society in Seneca are Sponsoring A Celebration of the Settlement of Nemaha County.

Scheduled tours to other Nemaha County Museums and historic sites will emphasize 150 years of a rich cultural heritage.

During the event, visitors can mingle with early settlers dressed in authentic period cloth, providing living history demonstrations. Troubadours, historic story tellers, actors, live entertainment, antique tractors, trucks and toys will be seen during a walking tour from the Pony Express Museum down Seneca Main Street to the Sheriff's Residence and Jail. Re-enactment of the Pony Express Ride and early settlement events are planned. Country Store items are available.

OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2006

7:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

## Pony Express Re-enactment

For more information, write to  
NCHS  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538  
Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)

Contact: Mary Fleming 785-336-  
2285 or Anita Heiman  
785-556-4094

Settling Nemaha County Heritage Contest  
Prizes will be given for the outstanding Nemaha County Family History Submitted with Photographs (will be returned to contestant)

Deadline: September 15, 2006

"Picture This", Main Street Seneca is seeking artists, young and old, to display at art show during the Heritage Days.



Tickets (\$5.00) will be sold for a Victorian Tea held at one of the oldest homes in Seneca on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Limited Seating.

Pre-register for the tour of your choice by completing the form below and mailing to Tours, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 67831 by September 6, 2006. You will receive a confirmation letter with details. Freewill offering for each tour; benefits go to tour sites.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Time Preference: Sat. AM & PM, October 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Sun. PM October 8<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsored by Nemaha County Historical Society & Pony Express Preservation Society

## NEMAHY COUNTY HISTORICAL TOURS HERITAGE DAYS OCTOBER 7 – 8, 2006

Come ride with us while we turn back the pages of history to the days of Indians,  
Trains, Pony Express Riders, Country School Houses and Churches.

### Narrated Nemaha County Tours

#### Tour #1. Bridge 33 Stone Pillars, Kelly, Log Chain Ranch: (proposed)

Sightseeing tour of the CCC Camp and the quarried stone pillars built by members of Company 2735 during the 30's. Visit the majesty of St. Bede's in Kelly and find excitement at the Log Chain Ranch.

#### Tour #2: Clear Creek Camelback Truss Bridge, St. Mary's Catholic Church (1891), Marion Township Hall (1895): (proposed)

Discover the legends of the settlement of Baileyville and St. Benedict. This is the real deal... Bring your camera, open your mind, and experience the past.

#### Tour #3: Drive-By Seneca Historic Sights: (proposed)

See the best first... with this fully narrated sightseeing tours of historic Seneca homes, Historic Main Street and visit the City of Seneca hand-dug well. The tour features over 100 points of interest. The tour makes 9 stops so you can disembark along the way for shopping, attractions, and dining.

#### Tour #4: Prairie Grove School, Conrad Droege Rock House and Barn: (proposed)

Take a stroll down one of Nemaha County's oldest lanes and discover the one room school house, built in 1886, complete with chalk boards and desks. Then travel a mile to the Conrad Droege Stone House and Barn, built in 1874 and preserved for generations to come.

### Museums

#### Tour #5: Old Albany (confirmed)

Travel two miles north of Sabetha on Sixth Street to tour the Old Albany School House, Albany Railroad Museum and the Old Albany railroad Windmill and Caboose. Other historic sites in Sabetha are planned.

#### Tour #6: Pony Express Museum (confirmed)

Step back to 1851 and discover the treacherous world of Pony Express riding and how Nemaha County became a legend on many maps.

#### Tour #7: Nemaha County Sheriff's Residence and Jail Museum: (confirmed)

Expert tour guides give insightful narratives and are eager to answer questions about the history of the Nemaha County Sheriff's Residence and Jail, which now serves as the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

#### Tour #8: Bancroft Depot Museum: (confirmed)

The Bancroft Preservation Association presents Gary Bell, who gathers his musical friends to provide Blue Grass, Old Country and Gospel for Music at the Depot Museum. Tour the Community Church and District #77 Schoolhouse tour to the sounds of music.

# 2005-2006

## NCHS Income & Expenses

*July 1, 2005—June 30, 2006*

		2005-2006 RECEIPTS			2005-2006 EXPENSES
Dues		\$2,973.00	Administrative		\$720.65
Contributions		\$2,936.27	Contract Labor		\$1,675.00
Fundraising		\$3,426.04	Fundraising		\$1,873.50
Memorials		\$2,620.00	Insurance		\$2,579.00
Interest		\$12,488.49	Inventory/Preservation		\$4,544.60
Investment		\$20,577.17	Investment		\$36,500.00
Grants		\$3,150.00	Museum/Lawn		\$1,375.47
MM Interest		\$644.47	Publicity		\$460.79
		\$48,815.44	Utilities		\$809.50
					\$50,538.51

Berger Trust Investment:

	12/15/2005	12/31/2005	2/15/2006	3/31/2006	6/30/2006	Available
Burger	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
Interest	\$8,488.49	\$8,547.99	\$8,547.99	\$8,846.24	\$9,132.96	\$9,132.96
Checking	\$8,011.51	\$8,011.51	\$4,011.51	\$4,011.51	\$4,011.51	\$4,011.51
Withdrawal			\$4,000.00			
Total	\$36,500.00	\$36,559.50	\$36,559.50	\$32,857.75	\$33,144.47	\$13,144.47

### Nemaha County Historical Society

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2006-2007 Membership Form

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 41

Seneca, Kansas 66538

E-Mail: nchs@carsoncomm.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-Historical Society membership (H)

\$10.00/year

Individual-Historical Society with Genealogy Society membership (HG)

\$15.00/year

Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)

\$200.00

Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)

\$25.00/year

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

The new annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 and individual Lifetime Membership fee of \$200 became effective on July 1, 2006. The annual membership fee provides a quarterly newsletter, attendance at administrative board meetings and free admission to the museum. Only one newsletter will be mailed after the deadline of July 1, if the annual membership fee expires.

#### Business Membership

A new business membership category became effective on July 1, 2006 at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites. A framed certificate would be distributed to each business member.



Historical Museum

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

NONPROFIT ORG  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum

Mary Steinlage  
7148 Settle St.  
Kelly, KS 66538-2663

2007H

# PIONEER PRESS

NOVEMBER 2006



## DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1-3: KMA Conference: Hays

November 9: Marci Penner at Valentino's: 1:00 p.m.

November 14: NCHS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

December 5: Heritage Days 2007 Organizational Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

February 13, 2007: NCHS Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

June 9, 2007: Pony Express Monument Dedication—Seneca, 11 a.m.

July 10, 2007: NCHS Organizational Meeting

October 6-7, 2007: Heritage Days 2007



Hannah Holthaus, Katie Wassenberg, Carol Kohake, and Jolene Holthaus I  
Heritage Days 2006

Heritage Days 2007  
October 6th & 7th

## BID PROCESS TO BEGIN FOR PORCH RESTORATION

Consultant Stan Hernly and Structural Engineer Don McMican, Hernly Associates began assessment to develop the preservation planning phase for porch and museum on August 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.

Tests and digging confirmed that the foundations on the porch and building were solid and appropriately constructed. However, investigation revealed that the porch pillars had been set three to six inches beyond the

foundation when added to the building in 1907. Over the last 100 years the porch pillars have leaned out enough to pull the porch away from the building, cracking the support system.

The specifications for construction to repair, rebuilt and restore the front porch have been developed and once the specifications have been approved by the Kansas State Historical Society, the consultant will send out a request for

contractors to bid on the construction phase. This project is funded in part by the KSHS Heritage Trust Fund Grant.



Engineer Don Mican oversees the digging around porch foundation by Ohlsen's backhoe.

## HERITAGE DAYS 2006 DRAWS PLEASANT AUTUMN WEEKEND

An early morning breakfast of biscuits and gravy at the Pony Express Museum started a casual celebration of Nemaha County Heritage Days.

A faint breeze drew the visitors from far and near to the Victorian Tea, the quilt show at the library,

tours of the hand-dug well and Main Street Seneca, buggy rides, pony express reenactment and Sheriff Storyteller during a 19<sup>th</sup> Century luncheon.

New activities such as the Jail "Wanted" Poster & Art Show allowed over 300 participants to enjoy both

the Pony Express Museum and the Historical Museum.

Twenty-six board members and supporters met for breakfast on October 17th and set the date of the first weekend in October for the 2007 Heritage Days . The organizational meeting will be a breakfast meeting on December 5, 2006 at 8:00 a.m.

## ACQUISITIONS!!!!!!

Diane Allison, Seneca: Excelsior pie saver showcase  
A. "Butch" Clark, Seneca: Sheriff's badge, uniform, sheriff photos  
Ray Theime, Sabetha: 33 vendor mugs for resale  
Stephanie Tiernan, Seneca: Seneca Jaynes Scrapbooks and Archive Records  
Don and Alice Macke, Seneca: Showcase for CCC & Nemaha Lake Display; Underwood typewriter from Lanning Office above Courier-Tribune

Helen and Joseph N. Schmitz, Seneca: Sausage Press Packaging Machine  
Joan and Raymond Schmitz, Seneca: History of the Jos Schmitz Family  
Connie Barnhart, Havensville, KS: 1935 Class of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students at Coal Creek Rural One Room School and class photo from Gage School  
Evelyn Waters, Seneca: Wrote and donated Federated Woman's Club History  
Toby Lear, Bern: Book; *Our Government*, 1909

Barbara Ketterman Pendleton, Lenexa, KS: Reminiscences of former teacher Romney Ketterman, photos

Ali Rose Winterscheidt, Seneca: calf weaner

Dean Rial, Seneca: US Army Officer, Class A Uniform, 1956-1986.

Bob Ackerman, Seneca: Two vintage staplers from Winter-schiedt Milling Company.

Cecelia Niekamp: Vintage Karo syrup tin, coffee pot and telephone insulators.

Robert Strathman, Seneca: Antique Wash Board

Ken Stallbauer, Seneca: Threshing Saw, 1918.

Arlene Schmitz & Anita Heiman: Roaster ovens for NCHS kitchen

Dorothy Wempe, Seneca: Seneca's Anniversary mementos

Sally Lauer, Seneca: Wempe and Lauer archives: Sally's Brownie Scout uniform and insignia, Gilford Hotel photos

Don Heiman, Overland Park, KS: Volcano Rock and letter of verification from John Gries, Department of Geology, Wichita State University.

Glenette Mitchell: Frank McGehee's pct. ballot box

Don Holthaus: CA; Henry Holthaus Family history

## HAND-DUG WELL LISTED ON HISTORIC REGISTRY

Seneca Hand Dug Well:

The Kansas State Historic Board of Review approved the application for listing the Seneca Hand-Dug Well on the Kansas Registry of Historical Places in August, 2006.



visible sign of Seneca's original water system, installed in 1895. The 65 foot deep by 34 feet wide, rock/brick-lined well may be the widest and second largest hand-dug well in

that level since at least 1979, long after the well stopped being used for human consumption.

A domed house with shingled roof covers the well and is open-topped by a cupola and encircled by six foot chain link fence.

Installation of submersible pumps took place during city restoration work in 1989. A service platform was installed by the golf club and enclosed for visitor safety.

The application will now go to Washington D.C. for review for the National Historic Sites of Board of Review.

The Hand Dug Well in the Seneca City Park is the last

Kansas. The three foot wide rock walls are laid in four foot high sections, constructed from ground level downward.

Water depth is approximately 25 feet and has remained at

**Heritage Days**  
Winners:

Byron Lear was the winner of the Barnyard Bingo and Dorothy Pearl Murphy's grandson, won the Pot-of-Gold jackpot. Pauline Bower, Carol Kohake, Sue Lee, and Mary Ann Haugness won tea sets for the best hats at the Victorian Tea, hosted by Sally Lauer in her home.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Genealogical and Historical:

Carol Hughes, Seneca  
Keith and Nancy Imholte, Seneca

Historical:

Les and Lola Droke, Seneca  
Lawrence H. Dunbar, Richland, MO (NEW)  
Mamie Beyreis, Prairie Village, KS

Arlen and Bessie Droke

Catherine and Curtis Knapp, Seneca (NEW)

Bill Rettele, Seneca

Regis Becker, Seneca

Dick Miller, Seneca

Susan Henry, Topeka (NEW)

John Vincent, Seneca (NEW)

Velven and M.A. York, 2008  
Seneca

Life:

Grace & Bob Strathman, Seneca

Business:

Mary Ellen Russell, Sabetha

Tours:

September 12: Sabetha Red Hatters

September 22: Seneca Training Center

## Museum Winter Hours

The Historical Museum is normally closed November through April, but due to the preservation project administrative staff will be working at the museum every day, Monday through Saturday this year. If there is no answer at the museum (336-6366), call Anita Heiman at 785-556-4094 or Joyce Olberding at 785-336-3334.

## CONRAD DROGE FARM

CONTINUED FROM AUGUST PIONEER PRESS

The Conrad Droege Farm, now called the Lazy D Ranch, is historically important for its association with the Conrad Droege family and the immigration of Germans to Northeast Kansas. Nemaha County continues to have one of the highest remaining concentrations of German ethnicity in the state of Kansas.

Conrad Droege (1844-1920) grew up in a family of stone-masons in Hanover, Germany. When the Prussian dominated North German confederation was established in 1867, Conrad left Germany in to escape further military service against neighboring colonies. He stayed awhile in Illinois where he secured a business education. With the call of the west upon him, he stopped awhile in Nemaha County, Kansas, and then went to Wyoming where the Union Pacific Railroad was being built. He was an overseer of a freighting crew carrying U.S. Army supplies between Fort Steele and Fort Laramie. On these trips he carried a Colt revolver with authority to use it as need arose.

Conrad purchased the Lazy D Ranch property in 1873 and built the original rock house and barn. The 130-year-old farmstead remains in the Droege family, retains the architectural integrity of the original property and is representative rural Northeast Kansas in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Ralph Tennal, in his 1916 publication, History of Nemaha County, KS, is quoted:

“...Mr. Droege landed on our hospitable shores a poor man, blessed with robust health and strength and imbued with an ambition to succeed. He has accomplished his desires and is now one of the old pioneer settlers of Kansas and is among the leaders of his home county.”

### PIONEER PRESS INSERT – NOVEMBER 2006

*Conrad Droege is a son of Henry and Louise (Bunnenberg) Droege, who lived and died in their native land and reared a family of three children, as follows: Henry, deceased; Conrad, the subject of this review; William a farmer in Pawnee County, Nebraska. Conrad Droege was reared on his father's farm in Hanover, Germany, and in 1866 crossed the ocean in search of fortune in America.*



*His desire had always been to own a farm of his own, and during his years of hard work he carefully saved his money and in 1873 he invested his cash capital in 130 acres of unimproved land in section 4, Nemaha Township. During his first year on the farm he broke up part of it and built a shanty as a domicile. This shanty was soon superseded by a commodious stone house which makes his home today. He has added to his holdings until he now owns 370 acres of land.*

*Mr. Droege was married on August 7, 1874, to Miss Sophia Poppe (age 16 years), and this marriage has resulted in the birth of nine children. Miss Poppe was also born in Hanover, Germany, on January 11, 1858. She was a daughter of Henry Poppe, (1883-1924), who left the Fatherland in 1870 with his family and settled in Nemaha County, Kansas.....*

Conrad did much of the hard manual labor required to quarry and “square” the rock for the house and barn.

To Be Continued – Pioneer Press Feb. 2007

## **Letters & E-mails**

Gary and Cyndi Wiles is seeking information about the Thomas Gilson family of Nemaha Township.

**Marci Penner, Director**

(kansassampler.org) sent dues and an email:  
"I'm looking forward to coming to Nemaha County on November 9th. I recently turned in my article for the winter issue of "Kansas Magazine!" It will feature historic churches in the state including St. Bede's and St. Mary's." [marci@kansassampler.org](mailto:marci@kansassampler.org)

Kansas Explorer #2 ([explorekansas.org](http://explorekansas.org))

*Note: The public is invited to hear Marci Penner speak on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at Valentino's.*

Anita Kelley Tuttle of Downey, CA mailed two of the *Pioneer Press* issues requested in the August newsletter: March, 1991 and November, 1990.

Dorothy E. Dick of Smithville, MO: sent the following: "Greetings: In reading the current issue of the *Pioneer Press*, I note the request for missing issues of the *Pioneer Press*. I have copies on file dating from May 1995. In looking for the November 2003 issue, I am inclined to think there is no such issue. Volume 78: May-June 2003; Volume 79, September 2003; Volume 80, February-March 2004; Volume 81, May & June 2004. This would indicate to me there is no November 2003 issue. My files only go back to Year 19, Number 48, May, 1995 so I don't have anything dating back to the 1990 and 1991 issues you are looking for."

"I thoroughly enjoy each issue. My families date back to the 1870's and 80's at Seneca and other locations in Nemaha County. My families are: Gress, Koehler and Luckeroth. My husband's families are Dick, Lierz and Fox families and date back just as far. In fact the farm that my great Grandparents Peter and Christina (Koehler) Luckeroth homesteaded east of Seneca in 1869 is still in the family. Today the Great, great grandson Duane Tanking and his wife Jane live on this farm. My grandparents, John and Barbara Gress purchased a farm northeast of Seneca about 1895. Their Great grandson David Gress now lives on that farm."

Rosamond M. Freeman of Baltimore, MD is seeking information on ancestors, Louis Lohmuller's parents. Louis was Rosamond's fifth grandfather and founded a bank in Centralia.

Sandy ([sjones@cavesvalley.net](mailto:sjones@cavesvalley.net)) is looking for information on her great-grandfather William Sherman of Seneca. In the 1900 census he is listed as the city marshall, married to Phebe Ann with three children, Ray, Edna and Ralph. Edna who is Sandy's grandmother, married Lee P. Taylor around 1912.

Kristie King of Wichita, (785-313-4560) is seeking photographs of the Pepperbox School.

**HISTORY DETECTIVES - Seeks Story Ideas To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing from Lion Television, an independent production company in New York. We are currently researching stories for the Fifth Season of PBS's History Detectives. We are currently seeking story submissions from all over the country regarding historically or culturally significant American buildings or relics. If you, or someone you know, have an object or building that may have played a key part in American history, tell us about your mystery. The most promising ideas are historically significant, and are still unsolved. If you have an ongoing investigation at this time, we would love to be a part of it.

Please submit questions or story ideas to  
[kyles@liontv.us](mailto:kyles@liontv.us)   Kyle Silveri  
History Detectives, Lion Television, 304 Hudson St., Suite 505, New York, NY 10013  
212.206.8633 x 3878  
[www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/)

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**

The annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 and individual Lifetime Membership fee of \$200 became effective on July 1, 2006 and can be paid by sending check to PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538.

**Business Membership**

A business membership category is available at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites. A certificate appropriate for framing will be distributed to each business member.

## MUSEUM TO DISPLAY UNIFORMS ON VETERANS DAY

The Nemaha County Historical Museum will display uniforms in Seneca Main Street stores for Veterans Day, observed on Friday, November 10, '06.

This holiday is observed annually in the United States in honor of all those, living and dead, who served with the U.S. armed forces.

A World War I uniform collection belonging to Claude Anderson of Oneida is the focus of the Veteran's Day display at the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

The Nemaha County Historical Society's collection of twenty-two uniforms include World War I, World War II, Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

The military uniforms have been cleaned,

wrapped in tissue and stored in acid-free boxes, identified by name and barcode number. The uniforms will be rotated in the military display collection during the year.

A photograph of each uniform in the NCHS collection is available in the Military Display Center. Ten American flags, including six with 48 stars, complete the NCHS Collection of mementos, insignia and photographs.



## NEW MILITARY DISPLAY

Don Macke has offered to enclose a large display area in Annex II for military artifacts and archives. NCHS Vice-President Richard Schmitz reports that the NCHS Board and Don have begun assessment of available areas.

## SHERIFF'S COLLECTION GROWS

*The History of Nemaha County Sheriff's Book*, compiled and donated by Albert (Butch) Clark to the Nemaha County Historical Society in May, 2000 has been recently updated by Wilma Jones. The book is interesting reading and includes a document, *Office of Sheriff, Nemaha County* (Nov. 4, 1910 by C.B. An-

drews), a list of Nemaha County Sheriffs from November 6, 1883-January, 2006 and incidents and stories of Nemaha County.

Herb Bontrager, Jr. visited the museum on August 12<sup>th</sup> and walked through the museum, sharing memories of his youth in the Sheriff's Residence when his dad, Herb Bontrager, Sr.

was Sheriff of Nemaha County. Herb, Jr. promised to send a picture of his dad for our Nemaha County Sheriff's collection.

Albert "Butch" Clark, former Nemaha County Sheriff, toured the museum during Heritage Days 2006 and donated his badge, uniform, photos and scrapbook mementos.

## GRANT PROGRESS

### Kansas Humanities Grant

NCHS is in the sixth month of the "Settling Nemaha County" Photo & Document Preservation Project funded by the Kansas Humanities Council. Volunteers have given 1,182 hours as the match for the grant. Diane Rottinghaus, Director, will continue to coordinate the volunteers through the winter months to inventory, catalog, index and barcode items.

## GRANT FILING

### Archive Storage Cabinet

NCHS has filed a grant application with the Kansas Museum Association for assistance to build an archive storage closet.

The estimated cost of the cabinet is \$3,817.25. NCHS is going out for bids on the project. The closet will provide ready access and preservation of documents and photographs.

## GRANT BROCHURE

### Tourism Grant

The Pony Express Preservation Association and the Nemaha County Historical Society received a \$1000 grant from the City of Seneca Tourism Committee for publicity and heritage tours for the Heritage Days 2006. The grant provided more extensive advertising and the printing of 300 Nemaha County Heritage tour brochures. The brochures are available at Seneca Chamber of Commerce, the museums, the motels, Stein B & B and Seneca City Hall.



Pictured above is Lacy Ackerman, one of the nine artists who displayed at Heritage Days Art Show.

## Edward Jones

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1871

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## IN MEMORY

"Given in Memory of Friends of Nemaha County Historical Museum"

Donations have been given in memory of these three ladies who recently passed on. Their names have been added to the NCHS Memorial Plaque displayed in the Museum's Sheriff's Office.

**Angela P. Haug**

1910–2006



**Mildred "Millie" Stallbaumer**  
1928-2006



1925 – 2006

**Genevieve "Jenny" Ronnebaum**



Locally Owned

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*Lauer Funeral Home*

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Website: [www.lauerfuneralhome.com/](http://www.lauerfuneralhome.com/)

### IN MEMORY OF SPECIAL FRIENDS OF NEMAHY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

#### NEMAHY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
Museum Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)  
Editor Email: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

#### NONPROFIT ORG

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Seneca, KS 66538

*Museum*  
**Mary Steinlage**  
7148 Settle St.  
Kelly, KS 66538-2663  
2007H



ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER WORKS.

Courtesy of STAN FELOKAMP

A memorial was given  
in memory of  
Theresa Rettele

A Seneca letter jacket  
was left at the  
museum. Do you know  
gave us this  
gift??

## Definitions

BABY - A new acorn on the family tree  
CEMETERY - (n) A marble orchard not to be taken for granite  
CUSSIN - What genealogists do when they can't find one.  
FLGOR - the place for storing your priceless genealogical records.  
GENEALOGIST'S - time unravelers  
GENEALOGIST - one always in search of a good dead man  
GENEALOGY - people collecting people  
GENEALOGY - a hay stack full of needles. It's the threads I need  
GENEALOGY - tracing yourself back to better people  
DOCUMENTATION - the worst part of genealogy  
DOCUMENTATION - the hardest part of genealogy  
FAMILY HISTORY - a quilt work of lives.  
KINSHIP - it's all relative  
RELATIVES - people who come to dinner who aren't friends  
RESEARCH - what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing.

The Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly,  
Vol. 34, No. 1, p. 29.



I  
Looked into  
my family tree  
and  
found out  
I was a Sap

Vol 8, Issue 3, page 27

Reprint BROWN COUNTY newsletter

Lana O'Conner donated  
a manniken to the  
museum.

9 August 1906 Courier Democrat

The county commissioners levied a tax of 8 mills for the county fund and 5 mills for the state fund.

The Seneca Tribune, September 12, 1918

BATTLES IN THE SKY

Some Things That Impress American Boys, But This One Will Be Glad When He Returns.

John LeRoy, whose home is at Marysville, but who was for a year or two employed by Walter Sperling, writes as follows to his former employer, from France, under date of July 13:

I have been intending to write you for some time, but since I arrived I have been so busy that I have hardly had time to write even the folks.

Since I got separated from my outfit at Hoboken, N.J., I have not seen them, and a few weeks ago I was sent up here with a replacement.

We have been on the front and are now in the reserve line. Expect to be relieved soon and get back to a rest camp. The Germans were unable to locate our position, so did not bother us much although at times things were a little interesting. Air battles were quite common, and I saw a couple of planes brought down.

I have seen quite a number of prisoners, and they seem to be about 16 and 40 years of age, and each one was glad to be captured. They can't understand the Americans and try to show great contempt for them, but our infantry and marines sure keep them wondering what will happen next. We gave them something to remember on July Fourth, and they will have a whole lot to think of when this is over.

I don't care much for this country and will be glad to get back to the States. France is full of wonderful places and it is a great experience I saw a little of Paris going through once in truck with a bunch of troops.

Best regards to everyone in Seneca--

Yours truly, Corp. John F. LeRoy, Btry C.F.A.1 American E.F., France

WWI OFF FOR SPECIAL TRAINING 1918

Four Nemaha county young men who had volunteered under special call for mechanics left the first of the week for training. George Steinmeier left Sunday for Fort Hayes Normal Training school at Hays, Kan. The following day at 1:35 LeeGeyer, James E. Roderick, of Wetmore and James Armstrong, of Centralia, left on the G.I. for Manhattan, where they will receive special training at K. S. A. C.

1911

Cannon and cannon balls of the city cemetery were procured from the Valley Forge Commission through Congressman Anthony, General Crozier and Ira K. Wells.

1906 Courier Democrat

WE ARE AMPLY PREPARED TO FURNISH SODA WATER, ICE CREAM, ETC. TO ALL  
WHO MAY WISH, JULY 4, '06.--  
JENKINS & POOLE.

## Visits of Discovery

By Ron Koehler

# Rerunning the Pony Express

Considering the fact that it only lasted for 18 months and that its promoters lost a fortune on the venture, the Pony Express became one of the most dramatic episodes in the development of the West. Started in 1860 by William Russell of the Leavenworth freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, the Pony Express made semiweekly runs between St. Joseph and Sacramento in ten days or less.

The Kansas portion of the Pony Express route passed through Nemaha County from Granada in the southeast part of the county to Ash Point, a small settlement about four miles northwest of Baileyville. Other stations along the Nemaha County route were Log Chain Ranch (in Section 19 of Capioma Township) and Seneca, which was one of the home stations where riders as well as horses were changed. The Seneca station was located at John Smith's hotel which once stood on the southwest corner of 4th and Main streets where Blair Furniture is now located.

All of this is introductory to the fact that the Pony Express will be rerun this weekend by the National Pony Express Rerun Association. The rerun has become an annual event which involves hundreds of volunteer riders along the old Pony Express route. Each of the Kansas riders will follow a two mile section of the trail.

According to Merle Hubbard, a Waterville trucker who is president of the Kansas Pony Express Rerun Association, the first rider will leave St. Joseph at about 10 a.m. Saturday morning. The schedule calls for a rider to reach Seneca about 5:30 p.m.

Hubbard and Russ Sanner, secretary-treasurer of the association and also a Waterville resident, visited Nemaha County last month to verify the route to be followed by the Nemaha County riders who are being coordinated by team captain Linus Koch of Baileyville.

A special effort is being made this year, Hubbard said, to follow the old route as closely as possible. For that reason, the team visited Granada, Log Chain, Seneca, and Ash Point and traced the location of the trail between these points. County and township roads were chosen which intersect or parallel the trail along its path through the county.

Team captain Linus Koch said the riders will try to average 10 miles per hour during the run.

"That's a slow canter," he said. "The association has allotted us 16 hours to get through Kansas. If everything goes according to schedule, a rider will reach Sacramento on June 25."

The association is preparing for a special Pony Express rerun next year to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the

first Pony Express run in 1860.

"When we make that run," Hubbard said, "we'll have riders going both ways. This year will be a one-way run."

The riders this year will enter Nemaha County just east of Granada. According to a 1959 article in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Granada was originally known as Pleasant Springs. The name was changed in 1865. There is some doubt whether Granada was an official Pony Express station since it was only four miles from the Kickapoo station in Brown County. As a general rule, the stations were set up 10 to 15 miles apart.

Log Chain Ranch, about six miles northwest of Granada, was a relay station where riders changed horses in two minutes or less. According to legend, Log Chain got its name because of the large numbers of log chains that were broken by government freighters and wagon train emigrants attempting to cross Lochnane's (now Muddy) Creek. The writer of the 1959 historical article speculated that the name "Log Chain" may have been a corruption of "Lochnane," the original name of the creek.

Seneca, the first home station west of St. Joseph, was a resting place for the riders who would make the return trip east. The station was located at Smith's Hotel, which had acquired a fine reputation for its good accommodations and excellent food.

From Seneca, the riders continued on the Government Road (also known as the Fort Leavenworth and Fort Kearney Road) to Ash Point, about 11 miles northwest of Seneca. "Uncle John" O'Laughlin was the proprietor of a grocery store at this relay station where the riders could change horses.

All that remains today of Ash Point is a covered well near a tree in the middle of a field. A cemetery is located several hundred yards north of the well.

After leaving Ash Point, the Pony Express riders followed the Government road past Axtell to Guitard

Station in Marshall County. The road then continued through Marysville and

Cottonwood Station (also known as Hollenberg), the last station in Kansas.

COURT-E-TIMBRE

14 JUNE 1984

Hereditry: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.

A Pack Rat: Is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor.

Genealogy: Chasing your own tale.



The remains of a grocery store, aptly named the Pony Express Store, still stand in Granada, one of the Nemaha County towns located on the Pony Express trail.

(reprinted from Courier Democrat 1906)

Frank Brass' black dray horse threw himself across the street from our office Monday morning. When they got him up he bolted straight for our front door. The editor and the devil were standing inside watching proceedings, but when the horse lunged onto the walk and straight for the front entrance, the aforesaid editor and the aforesaid devil fell over each other in their leisurely progress toward the back door. The animal stopped with his nose on the door latch, to our great relief, otherwise there might have been a pied printing office.

# NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nemaha County Historical Society and mail to Nemaha County Historical Society, 6th and Nemaha, Seneca, KS 66538. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

THE NEMAHA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Sixth and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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# THE PIONEER PRESS

published quarterly by  
THE NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
6th and Nemaha  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

## Volume 84

		May-June 2005
PRESIDENT:	Joyce Olberding	336-3334 (05)
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Richard Schmitz	336-6596 (07)
TREASURER:	Anita Heiman	336-2784 (07)
SECRETARY:	Theresa Hufles	857-3566 (07)
	Carol Kohake	336-3255 (05)
	Ray Hunninghake	336-3790 (05)
	Byron Lear	336-3903 (06)
	Mary A. York	336-3165 (06)
	Pam Davis	336-3928 (06)
	Pauline Esslinger	336-3819 (07)
	Eugene Visser	868-2398 (07)
	William Rettele	336-6511 (05)
	Naomi Turner	336-2720 (06)

## JUNE DINNER MEETING

Sunday, 12 June 2005

NEMAHIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6th & Nemaha

6:30 pm HARRY BURGER ANNEX

GOOD LUCK

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD IN A COVERED DISH, DRINKS,

& TABLE SERVICE FURNISHED

COME EARLY AND TOUR THE MUSEUM

Courier Tribune 1932

"the good ole days"?

Is your paper being stamped to expire? If you are hard pressed you can pay as little as 50¢ to keep the home news coming for three months. The campaign is on, tax levying time is here: it's a poor time to lose track of public events.

The Nemaha County Historical Society met on May 11. Members present were Joyce Olberding, Richard Schmitz, Theresa Hutfles, MaryAnn York, Bill Rettele, Anita Heiman, Naomi Turner.

Anita Heiman gave the treasurer's report. Insurance for the buildings was discussed, also ways to increase income for the museum.

Mary Ann York made a motion to hire Diane Rottinghaus to clean the museum before opening. Seconded by Bill Rettele.

The museum will be open for the alumni weekend over Memorial Day. In June a tour will be coming in from Kansas City to see the museum and other places in Seneca.

A nomination committee was set up to find nominees to be on the board, four new board members are to be elected. Richard Schmitz, Bill Rettele and Bob Ackerman will be on the committee.

The June meeting will be a covered dish pot luck dinner at the museum, drinks will be supplied. Dinner will be at 6:30 PM on June 12<sup>th</sup>. All members are welcome.

Mary Ann York made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Richard Schmitz.

With limited funds, we might be wanting volunteers to sit at the museum some afternoons. Please let one of the board members know if you can 'sit' even if it's only for a half a day.

We have the lunch stand at the community building sale of Odelia Brokamp on 19 June, Sunday, starting at 9:am. We need pies and volunteer help for the day. Let Joyce or Diane know. Pauline will be calling for pies!!!!

## HISTORICAL DATES

July 1 What significance has that date?

That is the Historical and Genealogical Society annual dues date. Of course you know that. Don't you? And a number of you have already paid your dues, some even for a year or more ahead. Good for you.

Be sure to read and mark the dues form correctly. Some times, if I receive \$10.00 I have trouble deciding whether you are paying for two years, both Mr. and Mrs., or both historical and genealogical societies. Dues for a single one-year historical society is \$5.00, for a single one-year historical and genealogical society is \$10.00, and for a single historical life membership it is \$100.00. Each society sends out four newsletters a year.

The following list is of the members who have already paid their dues to July 2006 or beyond.

Dorothy E. Bailey 2007	Mamie Beyreis
Charlotte Buetow new member	Al Buser 2007
Richard Couch	Angela Haug
Earl W. Hoffman	Dorothy Hunninghake
Lucille Lierz	Jean Nichues 2007
Dorothy Rooney 2007	Harold & Lola Schooler
Randy Stallbaumer	David Stein 2008
Ellen White	Kenneth Stallbaumer new member

The historical society has fifty life members. A number of them pay the \$5.00 fee annually to belong to the genealogical society too as that group has no category for life memberships.

## IN MEMORIAM

Deceased since last newsletter

Lawrence Eisenbarth	Mildred Lanning
Nora Helen Monroe	DAVID STALLBAUMER

### CORRECTION:

The donation we received was from the Bernadine Rettele Trust (Mrs Nate), it was reported as Theresa Rettele,  
SORRY for this error...

NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Individual-historical w/ genealogy @ \$10 each       Renewal  
 Lifetime-historical @ \$100.00 per person       New  
 Individual-historical only at \$5 per person

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE PIONEER PRESS

Dedicated to the Memory of **Pauline Specht Esslinger**  
Published Quarterly by Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seneca, Kansas 66538  
Phone: 785-336-6366

Volume 85

Editor's e-mail: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

September 2005

## **NEMAH CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FALL SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

### Fundraising:

Clara & Leonard Krogman Rural Sale  
Diane Rottinghaus: Chairman

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**

Harry Burger Annex

**Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Museum Open House**  
**Heritage Days**

**Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.**  
Harry Burger Annex

### **Board Agenda for September 13<sup>th</sup>**

- *Minutes of July 5<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting*
- *Financial Report/ Preliminary Budget*
- *Fundraising Report*
- *Old Business:*
  - *KS State Registration*
  - *501C-3 Reinstatement*
  - *Investments/Memorials*
  - *Grants*
  - *Website Establishment*
- *New Business:*
  - *Building Committee*
  - *Landscape Committee*
  - *Open House Committee*
  - *Museum Volunteer Schedule*



**Pauline Specht  
Esslinger**

Pauline Esslinger, Bern, a charter member of the Nemaha County Historical Society and editor of this newsletter, died August 15, 2005.

She was born December 9, 1931, at Pawnee City, NE, the daughter of Carl E. "Ed" and Ruth Jones Specht. In 1945 the family moved to Seneca. Pauline was a 1949 Seneca Public High School graduate.

On March 5, 1961, she married Waymer Esslinger at Sabetha. They lived and farmed south of Bern.

She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church at Bern, Daughters of the American Revolution, Reavis-Ashley Chapter at Falls City, NE., and charter member of the Nemaha County Genealogy Society. She was a Mayflower descendent and a member of the Mayflower Society. Pauline served on the Seneca High School Alumni Association Board and Washington Township Election Board. Pauline was a recipient of President Bush's "Point of Light Award."

Survivors are her husband Waymer of the home; two sons, Mark Esslinger, McLouth, and Michael Esslinger, Seneca; a daughter, Dawn Feldkamp, Seneca; a brother, Charles Specht, Dawson, NE; and 13 grandchildren.

Donations to the Pauline Esslinger Memorial of the Nemaha County Historical Society can be sent to 113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Seneca, Kansas 66538.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. is appreciative to SCTV, the local community television station, for the \$1000 gift to be used as matching funds towards a Preservation Grant. SCTV annually distributes money received from its advertising sponsors back to the Seneca community.

**Special appreciation** is expressed to Joyce Olberding, Carol Kohake and Ray Hunninghake for their years of dedicated board service to the NM County Historical Society, Inc.

The following out-of-town visitors recently visited Nemaha County, toured the museum and gave generously to the NMHS, Inc.:

Joseph and Julie Ford, PO Box 230801  
Tigard, OR 97281

Elizabeth Faye Tindle, 549 Gratz Brown,  
Moberly, MO 65270

Jeanne Bloom (Life Membership) 2666 E.  
73<sup>rd</sup>, Apt. 11-W, Chicago, IL 60649

Neadom and Linda Palmer, 493 Rebecca  
Drive, Pelham, GA 31779

#### **Board of Directors:**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Anita Heiman (07)</b>	<b>336-2784</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Richard Schmitz (07)</b>	<b>336-6596</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>DarlAnn Rial (08)</b>	<b>336-0053</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Naomi Turner (06)</b>	<b>336-2720</b>
-	<b>Mary Ann York (06)</b>	<b>336-3165</b>
-	<b>Jim Yunghaus (07)</b>	<b>336-6340</b>
-	<b>Eugene Visser (08)</b>	<b>868-2398</b>
-	<b>William Rettele (08)</b>	<b>336-6511</b>
-	<b>Ken Stallbaumer (08)</b>	<b>336-2822</b>
-	<b>Byron Lear (06)</b>	<b>336-3903</b>
-	<b>Pam Davis (06)</b>	<b>336-3928</b>
-	<b>Theresa Hutfles (07)</b>	<b>857-3566</b>

## **JULY MEETING MINUTES**

The Nemaha County Historical Society Board of Directors held their re-organization meeting on July 5, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Harry Burger Annex at the museum.

The following board members were present: Gene Visser, Richard Schmitz, Anita Heiman, Pam Davis, DarlAnn Rial, Ken Stallbaumer, Naomi Turner and Joyce Olberding. President Olberding opened the meeting by reading a letter of appreciation from a Kansas City Historic tour group.

Joyce brought to order the nominations for next year's officers. Nominated were Anita Heiman, president; Richard Schmitz, vice-president; DarlAnn Rial, treasurer; and Naomi Turner, secretary. The vote was unanimous and all accepted their positions.

The Courier-Tribune was retained as the official newspaper and the United Bank and Trust as the official depository. The following appointments were made for the year: Ken Stallbaumer, Public Relations; Mary Steinlage, Obituary, Scrapbook, Library and Labeling; Lillian Engelken, Curator; Pauline Esslinger, Pioneer Press Editor; Dorothy Pearl Murphy and Bill Rettele for Memberships; Richard Schmitz and Gene Visser, for Building Committee and Diane Rottinghaus, Lunch Stand-Fundraising activities.

All board meetings will be at the museum at 7:00 p.m. and dinner meetings to be announced, at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings for the coming year will be September 13, November 8, and February 14, 2006. October 2, 2005, has been designated for the annual open house. March 16, 2006, will be the annual soup day, June 11, 2006, will be the dinner and planning meeting, and June 27, 2006 will be the reorganization meeting.

Anita Heiman gave a treasurer's report with a balance on hand of \$7,434.67. DarlAnn Rial gave a review of grant preparations for preservation work.

*Historic pictures  
of the old city well  
are needed for  
attachment to the  
KSHS application.*

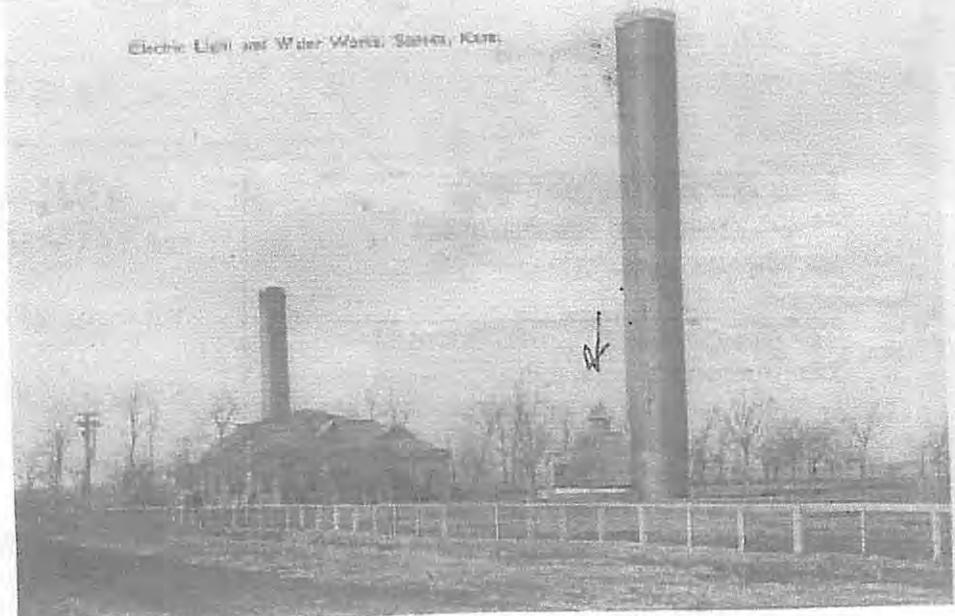
Photo courtesy of Ken Stallbaumer's

### **HAND DUG WELL CITY WATER WORKS**

The Kansas State Historical Society has approved preliminary plans to proceed with research on the Original Hand Dug Seneca Water Well, located in the city park, for placement on the National Historical Registry.

The Seneca City council minutes of April 10, 1895 recorded, "Decision was made to locate a city well on the west side of the city." Mr. F. L. Barrel, a consulting engineer from Fremont, Nebraska came to Seneca and after a careful study submitted a design and an estimate of \$33,785.00 to build a power house and well to be located in the west part of the city or \$33,000.00 if it was located in the southeast corner of town. The bid from James T. Broughal, of Kansas City, Mo, to build the water works was accepted.

The hand dug water well is 34 feet across and 65 feet deep. Water depth is approximately 25 feet and has remained at that level since at least 1979, long after the well stopped being used for human



website: [www.seneca-ks.com](http://www.seneca-ks.com)

consumption. This well is now being used to water the golf course fairways.

The old well was discontinued about 1937 when well #1 and well #2 and the million gallon reservoir were built. The original 85,000 gallons standpipe, located southeast of the Old Well, continued in use until replaced in 1976 by the one-half million gallon water tower.

Water was pumped from the Old Well by engine driven pumps. These pumps were in pits located inside a brick water works building, located southwest of the well. That building was razed in the late 1950's after being used many years for storage. The wood decking has been replaced, but the original timbers remain as support from the two sixteen inch I beams for the catwalk.

On July 19, 1899, "specifications for deepening the pump pit at the Seneca Water Works" were approved. Those specifications also state, "This will also require a new tunnel from the pump pit to the well. This and the lowering of the engines will be considered separately". The tunnel is not evident today.

**PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOLHOUSE  
APPROVED FOR NATIONAL  
HISTORICAL REGISTRY**

The Kansas State Historical Board of Directors approved the Prairie Grove School House (1886) for submission to the National Historical Registry at their Board of Review in Topeka on August 27, 2005. The KSHS approved the schoolhouse for the Kansas State Historic Registry in May, 2005.

Constructed in 1886, the one-story, vernacular clapboard building has an eastern façade with double entrance, two six-foot entry doors topped with matching horizontal transom windows, which flank a centrally placed double-hung window. The Mansard-roofed belfry is covered with diamond-shaped wood shingles and houses the original, functioning bell.

Prairie Grove sits on an acre of uncultivated farmland, located ten miles north of Seneca, Nemaha County, KS and a mile south of Nebraska state boundary on Highway 36.

The Prairie Grove School closed at the end of the 1964 school year and the land reverted back to the landowner. The building was sold at auction for \$220 and donated to an alumni association of 13 former students, called Old Settlers. They maintained the building and held yearly reunions until 2001. The interior and exterior are structurally sound and maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity of the period.

**Prairie Grove School House**  
*Photograph –  
Courtesy of Les Droege*

**YOU ARE NEEDED  
TO HELP WITH**

**FUND RAISING – LUNCH STAND**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

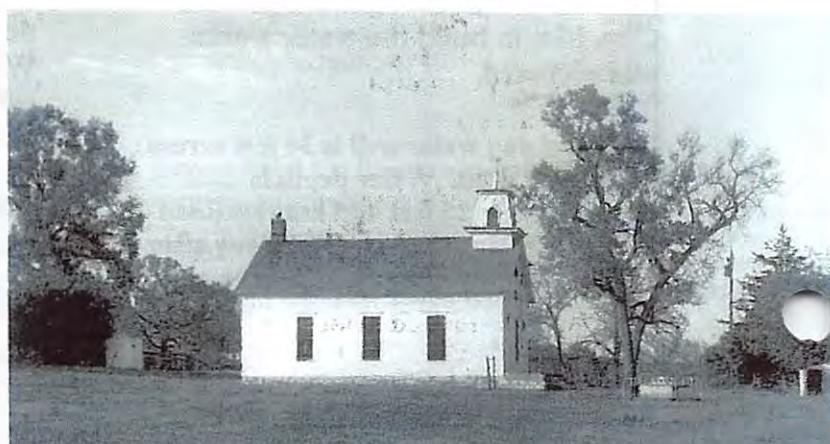
**Clara & Leonard Krogman Rural Sale**

**Diane Rottinghaus: Chairman  
Call: 336-2680**

**Annual Financial Report  
June 30, 2004 – June 30, 2005**

Income		Expenses	
NM County sponsor	\$1,000.00	Insurance	\$2,461.00
Donations	\$205.83	Personnel	\$2,509.26
Fundraising	\$2,836.34	Gas	\$528.15
Dues	\$800.00	Telephone	\$589.28
Research	\$35.00	Printing-Supplies	\$2,123.50
Memorials	\$1,000.00		\$8,211.19
	\$5,877.17		
Estimated Seneca-City In Kind (elec/water)	\$965.99.		
Total Income:	\$6,843.16	Total Expenses:	\$8,211.19
Checking acct balance on June 30, 2004		\$4,753.67	
Checking acct balance on June 30, 2005		\$7,434.67	

**NEEDED: A Digital Camera for documenting and archiving Museum Research Documents, Acquisitions and Donations.**



Members who have paid dues since the last newsletter:

Mary Hunnunghake  
 Mamie Beyreis (2007)  
 Phylis Anderson  
 Mary Lindeen  
 Naomi Turner  
 Richard and Arlene Schmitz  
 Velven and Mary Ann York  
 Arden and Bessie Droke  
 Cecelia Neap  
 Eldon Olberding  
 Les and Lola Droke (2007)  
 Mildred Frances (2007)  
 Jim and Carol Kohake  
 Roderick W Becker (New)  
 Bessie Oatman  
 Joseph Ford  
 Darlene Huerter  
 Bill and Theresa Rettelle  
 Evelyn and Robert Waters  
 Diane Rottinghaus  
**Genealogy members**  
 Lillian Engelken  
 Kimberly Baker  
 Dorothy Dick  
 Susan Cochran  
 Judith Bond (2007)  
 Gertrude Herda  
 Bradford Miter  
 Maureen Holthaus  
 Linda Palmer  
 Marietta Bailey  
**Life members**  
 Dean and DarlAnn Rial  
 Joan Roberts  
 Jeanne Bloom  
 David Mee  
 Jeanne Bloom  
 Deceased since last news letter  
 Odelia Brokamp  
 Pauline Esslinger

Here's information on upcoming exhibits at the [Kansas Museum of History](#) in Topeka.

- **Haunted History**  
*Sept. 9 through Oct. 31, 2005*

Enjoy historic costumes and decorations.



● **All That Glitters:  
 Dressing Up & Stepping Out**  
*Nov. 18 through Dec. 31, 2005*

We're sure you'll want to see the best party dresses in the [Kansas Museum of History](#) in Topeka, collected just in time for the 2005 holiday season. The display will include flappers' dresses from the 1920s, fine silk frocks from the 19th century, and of course some lovely ball gowns from all time periods.

You Are  
 Invited  
 To

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Open House

**Heritage Day**

Sunday, October 2, 2005  
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Nemaha County Historical  
 Museum  
 113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Seneca, Kansas

Come and have a good time, eat, visit and watch the demonstrations of old time vendors and music makers. Bring your lawn chairs.

**View the museum exhibits!**

Tour the Sheriff's Residence and Jail, built in 1879 and remodeled in 1907.

## IT'S BEEN THIRTY

**YEARS** since the first annual meeting of the Nemaha County Historical Society. The society had been officially organized on February 19 of that year, 1975. The theme for the meeting was "Sharing Our Heritage" with a representative from the Kansas State Historical Society giving the address. Before the meeting 72 members and visitors enjoyed a meal served by the lounge. The host and hostess for the evening were Leonard Wassenberg and Sally Lauer. Amelia Sudbeck presided at the meeting. The following were listed in the program booklet as charter members:

Ackerman, Alma	Heritage Club Unit
Ackerman, Robert	Holthaus, Twila
Ackerman, Doug	Holthaus, Paul
Ackerman, Janet	Holthaus, Irene
Austin, Jermane	Huerter, Bill & JoAnn
Austin, Alice	Huerter, Olive
Austin, Irene	Ingalls, Florence
Austin, Charles	Kirk, Donna
Bergman, Rachel	Kongs, Jean
Bergman, Jerri	Kramer, Phylis
Bergman, Jan	Krogman, Verla
Boeding, Mary	Lackey, Alice
Brennan, Richard P.	Lackey, Evelyn
Brinker, Bernice	Lauer, David & Sally
Brock, Larry D.	Levin, Jack
Brokamp, Odelia	Lohmuller, Mildred
Brown, Alice	Lohmuller, Burton
Buser, Gladys	May, Claude
Buser, Alfred	May, Margaret
Chamberlin, Mary	Mathewson, Frank
Clowe, Ruth	Mealy, Bertha
Diehl, Dan & Janet	Medill, Joan
Droge, Leslie & Lola	Meyer, Velma
Dunn, Grace	Miles, Frank & Ellen
Eaton, Gladys	Miles, Florence
Eberly, Frances	McCaffrey, Al-Hawth
Enneking, Mary	McGinty, Alice
Fangman, Irene	McNeeley, Maxine
Franklin, Darrell D.	Norton, Eleanor B.
Gafford, Nancy	Olberding, Reva
Gafford, Richard	Olberding, August Jr.
Gafford, Karen	Olberding, Joyce
Gilbert, Dr. J.H.	Olberding, Eldon
Gilbert, Mary	Olberding, Joe & Nola
Gleason, Evelyn	Reist, Franny
Graham, Alta	Rethman, Marcella
Grolimes, Mabel	Riffer, Blanche
Haverkamp, Eleanor	Rilinger, Rose
Haug, Angela	Roach, John
Hermesch, Helen	Roach, Delores

Roeder, Dorothy	Walters, Hazel
Roger, Larry	Wassenberg, Edith
Schmidt, Adrianna	Wassenberg, Leo
Schumacker, Clifford	Weber, Elizabeth
Schumaker, Mary	Yunghans, Robert
Sudbeck, Linus	Wilhelm, Virginia
Sudbeck, Amelia	Winter, Fred & Betty
Sudbeck, Loren	Woltkamp, Eileen
Thompson, Julia	York, Vel & MA
Troughton, Elizabeth	Stark, Eva
Vitt, A.E. DDS	Houston, Louise
Viasak, George	Winkler, Lawrence
Viasak, Irene	Winkler, Teresa

## OBJECTIVES OF NEMAH COUNTY HISTORICAL

**SOCIETY:** This incorporated society is organized not for profit nor may any part of its earnings inure to the benefit of any individual. The nature of its business or purpose to be conducted or promoted shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Nemaha County, Kansas. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life; gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

Our major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area; its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war, its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade and transportation. It will collect printed material illustrative of life, conditions, events and activities of the past and present.

The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it; to cooperate with officials in insuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the county and of its cities, towns, villages and institutions, and to undertake the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.

The society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by marking historical buildings, sites, and trails, holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lectures, papers and discussion.

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## **HISTORIC SITES BOARD OF REVIEW ANNOUNCES NOMINATIONS**

**Includes 20 National/ 4 Kansas Register Nominations**

**TOPEKA**--The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review approved National Register nominations for 24 Kansas properties at its quarterly meeting, August 27, 2005.

Twenty properties were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D. C. Four properties were approved for the Register of Historic Kansas Places:

- Hoisington High School, 218 E 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hoisington, Barton County (1940)
- Protection High School, 210 S. Jefferson, Protection, Comanche County (1930)
- Ashland Grade School, 210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashland, Clark County (1937)
- Sylvia Rural High School, 203 Old Highway 50, Reno County (1926)
- Agra Consolidated School, 941 Kansas Avenue, Agra, Phillips County (1945)
- Wilcox School, U.S. Hwy 783, Ransom vicinity, Trego County (1886)
- Prairie Grove School, Seneca vicinity, Nemaha County (1886)
- Wabaunee Grammar School, 56 Center Street, Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee Co (1888)
- Riley County Courthouse, 100 Courthouse Plaza Manhattan, Riley County (1905)
- Nora E. Larabee Library, 108 Union Street, Stafford Stafford County (1905-1906)
- Farmers National Bank, 100 N. Main Street, Stafford, Stafford County
- Independence Downtown Historic District, Independence, Montgomery County (115 buildings. 95 contributing and 20 noncontributing)
- St. Luke AME Church, 900 New York Street, Lawrence, Douglas County (1910)
- Antelope Lake Park, Morland vicinity, Graham County (1935)
- Kuns-Collier House, 302 S. Walnut Street, McPherson, McPherson Co (1909)
- Pleasant Ridge Church, Buffalo Road, Phillipsburg vicinity, Phillips Co (1898)
- Kirwin City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> and Main, Kirwin, Phillips County (1915-1916)
- Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, 320 College Street, Winfield, Cowley Co (1917)
- Mary Seaman Ennis House, 202 West 13<sup>th</sup>, Goodland, Sherman County (1907)
- Lincoln School, 801 Division Street, Atchison, Atchison County (1921)

### **REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES:**

- Mathias Splitlog House, 251 Orchard Street, Kansas City, Wyandotte Co (1870)
- Robert Hall Pearson Farm, 163 E. 2000 Road, Baldwin vicinity, Douglas County
- D.D. Ikenberry Bldg., 327 Main, Quinter, Gove County (1908)
- Cather Farm, Beloit vicinity, Michell County (1884)

The National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places are official lists of cultural resources worthy of preservation and part of a national program to protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties currently listed include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

The benefits of listed properties include recognition of significance to the nation, state, or local community; consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects; eligibility for federal and state tax benefits; and qualification for the Heritage Trust Fund grant program.

In order to be considered, properties must generally meet three criteria: be 50 years or older, retain most of the original interior and exterior appearance, and have historical and/or architectural significance at the local, state or national level. The eleven member Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is appointed by the governor. For more information contact the Historic Preservation Office at the Kansas State Historical Society, 785-272-8681, ext. 240.

**Nemaha County Historical Society  
Membership Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Individual-historical society membership @ \$5.00 per person**

**Annual Individual-historical with genealogy society membership @ \$10.00**

**Lifetime-historical society membership @ \$100.00**

**Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check to: Nemaha County Historical Society**

**113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seneca, Kansas 66538**

The Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

**Nemaha County Historical Society  
113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seneca, Kansas 66538**

**NONPROFIT ORG  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 10  
Seneca, KS 66538**

# THE PIONEER PRESS

Dedicated to the Memory of Pauline Specht Esslinger  
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Seneca, Kansas 66538

Phone: 785-336-6366

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Volume 86

Editor's e-mail: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

November 2005

## NEMAH CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Harry Burger Annex I  
Public Invited

### Board Agenda for November 8th

- *Minutes of September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting*
- *Financial Report/Budget*
- *Reports & Evaluation:*  
*KMA Conference*  
*Fundraising Report*  
*Membership Report*  
*Heritage Day-Open House Rpt.*
- *Old Business:*
  - *Financial Status-*  
*501C-3 Reinstatement*  
*Investments/Grants*
  - *Membership*  
*Fees*
  - *Museum Committee*  
*Porch*  
*Landscaping*
- *New Business:*
  - *Library Committee -*  
*Project Photography*  
*Tour Outline*
  - *Publication Committee-*  
*Website*  
*Newsletter sponsor*
  - *Museum Committee -*  
*Museum Sign*  
*Lighting*
  - *Schedule Committee Mtgs.*  
*Plan Short term goals/needs*  
*Plan long term goals/needs*

Historical Society Website: <http://www.seneca-ks.com/book1/nchs/>



The Nemaha County Historical Museum will be open and administrative board members available every Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon through April 2006.

The Museum will return to daily openings in May through October, 2006, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tours are available by appointment: Anita Heiman at 785-336-2784 or Joyce Olberding: 785-336-3334.

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

The Nemaha County Historical Society Board of Directors held their September 13, 2005 meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the museum.

The following board members were present: Gene Visser, Richard Schmitz, Anita Heiman, Mary Ann York, Pam Davis, DarlAnn Rial, Ken Stallbaumer, Jim Yunghaus, Byron Lear, Theresa Hutfles. Former President Joyce Olberding was in attendance.

M.A. York read the minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Secretary Naomi Turner's absence. DarlAnn Rial gave a treasurer's report with a balance on hand of \$9,100.95 and submitted the 2005-2006 budget for approval. The Board approved budget and voted to increase annual dues from \$5 to \$10, effective July 1, 2006. A lifetime membership remains \$100, but the board agreed to revisit the item next year. Financial matters were discussed and the Heritage Day-Museum Open House plans reviewed.

Richard Schmitz, chairman of the museum committee, announced plans to get estimates for the front porch repair. Diane Rottinghaus reported on the Krogman Rural Sale food booth.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES RAISED

In September 2005, the Board of Directors increased membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person per year effective July 1, 2006. A lifetime membership remains \$100.

Dues are paid through the end of June for the year shown on your Pioneer Press label. Lifetime and courtesy members are denoted.



## Historic Photos of Brick Homes

The Kansas Heritage Center is seeking historic photos of brick homes in Kansas to become part of a new poster series on Kansas housing traditions. They welcome information on any historic photos of brick homes but there preference is for: vernacular houses not high style, small, one-story homes and photos with people in them. If you have any historic photos of brick homes that you would be interested in sharing through this project, contact Dave [DaveWebb@giantcomm.net](mailto:DaveWebb@giantcomm.net).

Do you have information on the "SEPTER" Family who once lived in Nemaha County? If so contact Shirley McCauley, PO Box 86, Hardin, IL, 62047

Do you have knowledge of the "BERNARD" Family who once lived in Nemaha County? If so contact Ron Snider, Queenscny, MO at 660-766-2617.

Can you help The Plains Project who is mounting an exhibition of color photos of Kansas rural and small town life in 1945-1958. Color Kodachrome slides of that period are easy to spot as they always have a solid red border. Styles may vary but they always have a red border. Ordinary photos of small town events, family life, local scenes, etc. are needed.

All slides can be returned if you wish and The Project will pay postage both ways. The slides used in the exhibition will be credited to the owners. Put slides in a box and send by ordinary media mail to:

**The Plains Project**  
C/O Daniel Liebert  
1020 Connecticut St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
E-mail: [Dliebert@msn.com](mailto:Dliebert@msn.com)

## WW II Kansas Vet Database

The Kansas State Historical Society launched the Kansas World War II Veterans Database on August 12, 2005, to commemorate the 60-year anniversary of V-J Day. The database will be located at [www.kshs.org/genealogists/military/wwivetsindex.htm](http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/military/wwivetsindex.htm).

Kansas veterans of the armed forces who served between 16 September 1940 and 30 June 1946 are found in this comprehensive data, which came directly from the Adjutant General Selective Service Board's list. The information in this database was input by KSHS volunteers and staff and includes the name of the veteran, the county from which she or he served, branch of service, whether enlisted or inducted, date of service/serial number, order numbers if registered, and occasionally additional deceased or discharge data.

## Donations

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. thanks:

MARY JO WHITE, 502 North 3<sup>rd</sup>, Seneca, KS for antique toys: one mail box bank (c. 1954-55) and child's tin stove (c. 1940-41) donated to the museum.

ROB RANIERI for the ledgers and inventories to the Strathman Photography glass negatives donated to the museum by PAT AND PATTY SCHMELZLE. The glass was removed during WW II and donated to the war effort, but the negatives remain intact.

ESTATE OF IRENE AND MARCELLUS HAVERKAMP for seven religious pictures, including the "fifteen mysteries of the rosary" and "the fourteen stations of the cross".

MILDRED AND KEN STALLBAUMER for a vintage Thomas Edison Victrola.

## Acknowledgements

The Nemaha

County Historical Society, Inc. thanks the STEP Foundation Board of Directors for approving a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. this month. These funds are to be used for matching funds for the Kansas State Heritage Grant, which will assist with repair of the front porch and a long range preservation plan for the Museum. The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. will receive the check for \$1,000 when the project is completed.

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. thanks SCTV manager, KEITH MEGILL, for filming the Heritage Day Open House activities for the local community television showing and Courier-Tribune DAN DIEL'S coverage.

### Members who have paid dues since the last newsletter:

9 new members—

Quentin and Jenny Ronnebaum  
Robert and Lueila Enneking  
Gary and Marilyn Evans  
Bob and Maurine Calderwood  
Cleta Renyer

29 renewals of which 4 are life memberships and 2 genealogy renewal.

New life members are

Karen Matcheck  
Kris Foth  
Nancy Gafford  
Dean Rial

### Nenwals:

Aloy and Janet Haverkamp  
Toby and Byron Lear  
Ken Stallbaumer  
Doretha Bailey  
Robert and Grace Strathman  
Dorothy Huninghake  
Rita Broderick  
Stacy Heinen  
Regis Becker  
Dick Miller  
Roderick Becker  
Claude and Betty Rieschick  
John and Theresa Hutfles  
Gene and Lois Visser  
Randy and Susan Stallbaumer  
Jerry and Pam Davis  
Rita J. Floersch

## Nemaha County Historical Society Administrative Board

### Officers

President:	Anita Heiman	336-2784
Vice	Richard Schmitz	336-6596
President:	DarlAnn Rial	336-0053
Treasurer:	Naomi Turner	336-2720

### Directors:

Mary Ann York	336-3165
Jim Yunghaus	336-6340
Eugene Visser	868-2398
William Rettele	336-6511
Ken Stallbaumer	336-2822
Byron Lear	336-3903
Pam Davis	336-3928
Theresa Hutfles	857-3566

Membership:	Dorothy P. Murphy	336-2624
Library:	Mary Steinlage	336-3272
Curator:	Lillian Engelken	336-3160
Fundraising:	Diane Rottinghaus	336-2680

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## Museum Accessions Policy

*All donations are considered outright and unconditional gifts to be used at the museum's discretion. No permanent loans can be accepted because of the expense involved in housing, handling, maintaining and exhibiting collections. Temporary loans for limited periods of time maybe accepted for special exhibits at the discretion of the society.*

*Protection of the collections from light, dust and insects necessitates periodic changing of exhibit materials. For this reason no donation can be considered on permanent exhibit. All donations are tax deductible. Although the museum is unable to assume responsibility to determine valuations, the staff will make an effort to locate an appraiser for the donor upon his or her request.*

*An "accession record" form must be completed by a staff/volunteer with the donor signing the form to complete the donation.*



## The Saga of the Railroad Switch Caper

Over eighty people toured the Nemaha County Historical Museum during the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Heritage Day Open House. Viewing displays on both floors of the historic sheriff's residence, both floors of the old county jail, and the Burger Annex I, participants inevitably checked out the new exhibitions in the Burger Annex II. Most were impressed, but one couple was stunned. Max and Carolyn Huerter of Bern stopped short at the display of the Kansas City North Western Railroad Switch from Kampler Siding.

*The couple read the posted information outlining the procurement of the railroad switch as published in the July 2005 Tribune Courier: In December of 2004, Dick Miller informed Kenneth Stallbaumer that he had found a railroad switch from the Kansas City North Western railroad and wanted to know if the Historical Society might be interested in adding it to their collection of history.*

*In June 2005, Dick and Ken went out east of the Lake Nemaha area and took a look at the switch. The Historical Society was interested in obtaining the Railroad Switch that had been at this spot for over 100 years. Likely some 85 years since it was used. This switch was on Bob Calderwood's property some 100 feet south of where Bob's Lake Side Restaurant was located. Bob gave Ken and Dick permission to go and get it and it can now be seen at the Historical Museum.*

*Kampler Station on the east side of the Nemaha River near where the Nemaha Lake was later built. This siding or Station was location in Section 23 and was so named Kampler because of two people who were responsible for setting up the railroad siding. The name taken was from last syllables of "Vonderkamp" and "Winkler".*

*Ray T. Ingalls reported to the Rotary Club on January 17, 1963: The Kansas City North Western Railroad was organized in 1886 and this was too late in the history for railroads to receive a land grant to help finance the railroad. Bonds had to be sold by towns and countries through the area to which the track was to run. Seneca voted 325 to 10 for the city to issue \$20,000 in bonds to be sold and purchase stock in the KC and NW Railroad. The laying of the rail was completed in 1888. Mr. Ingalls could find no records of any dividends being paid, but found that the railroad*

*served Seneca for three decades. Seneca was considered a railroad town since most of the crews lived in Seneca. There were three Freight Crews, a passenger crew, a mail clerk and baggage man, a section crew, telegraphers, a half dozen employees at the coal shunts and pumping stations, roundhouse employees and all making their home in Seneca and marrying Seneca girls. The railroad payroll was a boost to the Nemaha County economy. The Historical Society wishes to thank all who were involved in obtaining the old relic from the past: Dick Miller, Bob Calderwood, Eldon Olberding and Bill Claas.*

Max and Carolyn Huerter read the displayed information with some skepticism and said to each other, "We have something like that railroad switch on our property."

Wondering about the historic item, they drove to their property near the old Nemaha Lake and found it gone from their land. When Deputy Darlinghaus was called to the site with one or both of the Huerters, the Historical Society was contacted. Ken Stallbaumer admitted and apologized for his management of the caper, but added that he would not have put it in the newspaper if he was really stealing the railroad switch. The Huerters had not seen the article in the newspaper.

Although proper procurement procedures were not totally followed, the Nemaha Historical Society had no intentions of stealing the switch. In fact, Eldon Olberding had checked the plat and believed the group had chosen the correct landowner for permission from among six listed. "The day we chose to go get the switch Bob Calderwood was unable to go with us as he had planned. He had to attend a funeral instead. If he had accompanied us to the site it is likely this mistake would not have happened since he would have been more familiar with where we were," concluded Ken Stallbaumer.

Carolyn Huerter removed the railroad switch from the museum on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. The Nemaha County Historical Society apologizes for the entire railroad switch caper and encourages the Huerters to preserve the historical switch for future generations.

-dsrial

## Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

The National Register of Historic Places accepted the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence in 2004.

The Nemaha County jail and sheriff's residence (1879, 1907) maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity and stands as one of the oldest sheriff's residence and jail remaining in Kansas today. The red brick, two-story structure rests on a foundation of limestone blocks, laid in mortar and a natural bed of sand. A renovation in 1907 enlarged the second floor of the residence, added a tower and built a second floor to the jail. Today, the sheriff's residence and jail are connected with a modern brick addition, a museum annex.

The original jail and sheriff's residence is described in Andreas's History of State of Kansas (1883), as follows:

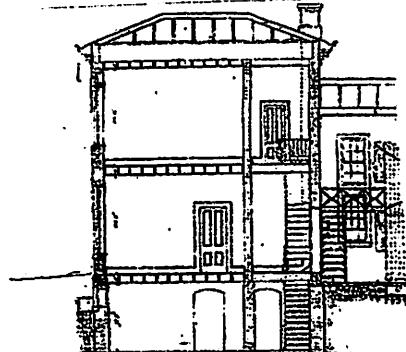
*It is a two-story brick structure with an L, the main building, 32x25 feet, containing six rooms conveniently arranged for the residence of the jailor. The L, 29x26 feet, contains three of J. Pauley's patent steel cells, each of sufficient size to accommodate four persons, while above the jailor's residence are two rooms used for the incarceration of female prisoners and those retained for minor offenses. In connection with the building is a large cistern and facilities for using the water to the best advantage in case of fire. The building cost \$9,965, and is in every way a credit to the (Nemaha) county.*



Southern Façade

The building was used until 1905 when deterioration of the floors of the jail began to raise concerns, complaints and jail-breakouts. Some escaped through the roof. One prisoner succeeded in making his escape by walking out the brick wall. The Nemaha County Commissioners accepted the bid from Shaul & Assenmacher on June 5, 1907 to renovate the building for \$9,851.

The first floor of the residence was remodeled, keeping the original nine-foot ceilings in the three rooms, central hall, open stairway and a foyer. The hallway from western façade to stairway was removed, opening the parlor. A wall was removed in the north room allowing a larger dining room. The kitchen, sheriff's office and a small lavatory were added in the enlarged jail sector building. The sheriff's office was now centrally located with entrances to the kitchen, hall, foyer and the only passage into the jail. The renovated windows of the sheriff's office were built wider.



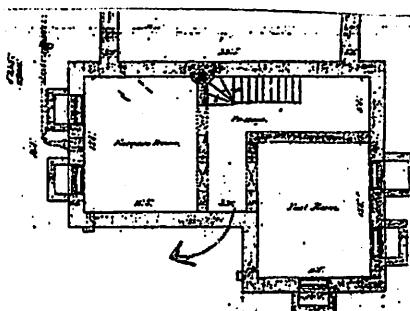
Basement, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors, Southern Facade

As part of the 1907 renovation, the angle of pitch was increased over the sheriff's residence to accommodate two additional rooms on the second floor. The roof over the jail was built flat across. A tower with cupola was added to the intersection of the sheriff's residence and the jail on the south side of the building. In the new tower, cement steps were added which lead to a small covered porch on ground level and a bathroom on the second floor. Nestled back into the nook created by the tower on the south, a new porch was built. A western façade porch was extended to cover the full side of the building with cement arches decorating the stone railing. The terrazzo floor of the porch extends inwards to the foyer, but is currently cracking due to poor support framework. Four brick pillars rise from the porch railing to the centered gabled roof. The entire building was re-bricked from the Seneca Brick Factory.

All the new windows constructed for the renovation were built with rusticated stone sills and topped with vertical placed bricks, but the first floor jail windows and the sheriff's residence windows built with cast iron sills are original.

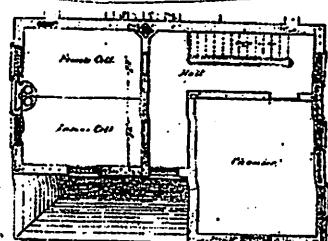
The major change in the second story residence was the removal of the female and

insane cells. These rooms were transformed into family rooms. The renovations provided five rooms on the second floor, two closets and a bathroom for the Sheriff's residence. The building had steam heating until electricity and city water became available. In the 1907 renovation, the portico was moved from the western façade to the mid-section of the north side of the building, running east and west.



First Floor Entry, Western Façade

The four panel doors surmounted by transoms provide entry into the building. All of the doors are box framed with galvanized iron trim. One-over-one, double hung sash fenestrate the building. Galvanized metal lintel hood surmount the arched windows of the 1907 structure. Basement windows pierce the western façade, the north and south elevations. Stone extends over basement windows eight inches longer than width of opening to form a cap.



SECOND STORY  
Second Floor, Western Façade

The basement under the Sheriff's residence has four rooms: on the north, the furnace rooms which measures a total of eleven feet six inches long by thirteen feet eight inches wide and on the south, the fuel rooms, which are eleven feet eight inches by thirteen feet eight inches. The stairs, located to the east of the fuel room, lead up to the first floor. The stairway has open risers with two-inch plank treads.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK AT HERITAGE DAY.

THE FOLLOWING VISITORS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO RECENTLY VISITED AND TOURED THE NEMAH CO. MUSEUM:

REV. AND MRS. PAUL BIERLY, SENECA, KS

LYNNE HAMPLE, OMAHA, NEBRASKA

LEATA FEGGIE, AND INEZ RAND, PEGGY BARNETT, HARLAN TESKE & JEAN, WAMEGO, KS

BUD AND CAROLYN RANDALL, OTTAWA, KS

DONALD/GERADINE BARMAN, CROWN PT., INDIANA

SHELLY THEIM, BIG LAKE, MN 55309

CHRIS BARMAN, OAKLAND TWP., ME 48363

SHIRLEY MCCAUPLY, HARDEN, ILL  
JOHN GUSTFORD, GARNETT, KS  
VILET BECKER, MICHAEL, ILL

Visitors to the Museum on October 6<sup>th</sup> were the parents of James White of 801 Branch, Seneca.

Jim and Janis White  
301 South Elm  
Pretty Prairie, KS 67570



The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. thanks BYRON LEAR for building a new step from office to jail and a base for the pie saver.

BOB ACKERMAN for replacing cracked glass in two showcases and assembling/installing the wall photograph display in Annex II.

KEN & RANDY STALLBAUMER for installing a new screen door in Annex I;  
NANCY IMHOLTE for display consul.

UNITED BANK AND TRUST, 501 Main,  
Seneca, KS. for printing these quarterly newsletters.



Blacksmith and Soap making



Entertainment:  
Gelenett Mitchell and Teresa Rettele



Mums from Sprout Shopp



Krafts by Kramer



Shelling Corn – Volunteer Eugene Visser

## VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH HERITAGE DAY OPEN-HOUSE

ACTIVITY-LOCATION	VOLUNTEER
Tractors & Trucks	Bill Rettele
Grindstone – North of Annex I	Gene Visser Byron Lear Clarence Engelken
Coordinator	Anita Heiman
Entertainment	Theresa Rettele
Corn Sheller	Jim Kohake, Jerry Davis, Jim Yunghans
Antique Toys – Woodburning	Bob & Alma Ackerman
Pot of Gold – Annex I	Esther Proffitt Joyce Olberding Nancy Gafford
Membership/Public Relations Annex I	Dorothy P Murphy Kenny Stallbaumer
Fire Engines – Annex I	Paul Bierly
Information Tour Sheriff's Residence	Mary Steinlage Toby Lear Rita Broderick
Museum Tour – Upstairs Residence	Mary Lindeen Ellen Winkler
Historic Tour – Jail	Dean Rial DarlAnn Rial
Kitchen – Annex I	Lois Visser, Arlene Schmitz Carol Kohake Stacy Heinan Joan Roberts Megan Engelken, Diane Rottinghaus Cecelia Niekamp Theresa Hutzles Lillian Engelken
Popcorn – Annex I	Jerry & Pam Davis
"Pay Here" Cashier – Annex I	Mary Ann York Naomi Turner
Historic Photos	Kenny Stallbaumer
Tour-Annex II	Richard Schmitz

## Heritage Day – Open House Financial Report 2005

Income	Expense
Dues	\$575.00
Fundraising	\$603.00
Book Sales	\$16.00
Contributions	\$134.50
total	<b>\$1328.50</b>
	<b>\$500.91</b>

### Images of Museum Open House



Volunteers Joyce Olberding and Esther Proffitt - Annex I  
Pot of Gold: Heritage Day -



Heritage Day – Open House Reception Area Volunteers  
Toby Lear and Mary Steinlage preparing to tour facilities.



Costumed Volunteer  
Mary Lindeen in  
Berger Hospitality



Lunch at the Heritage Day-Open House – Annex I

Volunteers

Alma and



Bob Ackerman with his Antique Toys and her wood  
burning workshop-Heritage Day



Sheriff Ken Stallbaumer  
[www.kenstall@seneca-KS.com](mailto:www.kenstall@seneca-KS.com)



Photo gallery  
Burger Annex II



Heritage Day- Open House antique trucks and tractors  
Bill Rettile coordinator



Steam Power workshop

Photos Courtesy of  
[www.kenstall@seneca-ks.com](mailto:www.kenstall@seneca-ks.com)

## Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. 2005 - 2006 Schedule

November 8, 2005: Board Meeting  
February 14, 2006: Board Meeting  
March 16, 2006: Annual Soup Day  
June 11, 2006: Dinner and planning meeting  
June 27, 2006: Reorganization meeting.  
Work Days (to be announced)  
Committee Meetings (to be announced)

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RETURN TO OR MAIL BY NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>:

NEMAH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
HERITAGE DAY COMMITTEE  
113 NORTH 6<sup>TH</sup>  
SENECA, KS, 66538

### HERITAGE DAY-OPEN HOUSE EVALUATION

1. OVERALL HERITAGE DAY-OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITY:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement HOW: \_\_\_\_\_
2. ENTHUSIASM AND RECEPTION AT OPEN HOUSE:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
3. VARIETY OF WORKSHOPS:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
4. SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_
5. VARIETY OF DISPLAYS:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
6. WORKSHOP SITES:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
7. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
8. MUSÉUM TOURS:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
9. ENTERTAINMENT:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
10. VARIETY OF SALES ITEMS IN FOOD BOOTH :  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
11. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
12. Suggestion for involving community organizations:
  
13. PUBLICITY:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
14. COSTUMING OF VOLUNTEERS:  Great  Poor  Needs Improvement
15. WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT OPEN HOUSE:
  
16. NEXT YEAR (2006) IS THE MUSEUM'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERITAGE DAY-OPEN HOUSE. HOW DO YOU VISION SUCH A CELEBRATION?

# Nemaha County Historical Society Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#  Annual Individual-historical society membership @ \$5.00 per person (H)

#  Annual Individual-historical with genealogy society membership @ \$10.00 (HG)

#  Lifetime-Individual-historical society membership @ \$100.00 (L)

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to: Nemaha County Historical Society  
113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

In September 2005, the Board of Directors increased membership dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per person per year effective July 1, 2006. A lifetime membership remains \$100. The Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501©(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are tax-deductible. If you enclose a SASE, your membership card will be mailed to you.

Nemaha County Historical Society  
113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

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